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ANGOLA-SOUTH AFRICA NEGOTIATIONS: COMMENTS ON 'LAST CHANCE'

Paris LE MONDE in French 3-4 Aug 80 p 3

[Text] An observer, who is quite familiar with the vagaries of the conflict between Angola and South Africa but who requests anonymity, has sent us the following comments on the "last chance" for negotiations between the two countries:

Of all the countries in southern Africa, Angola is the only one to snap its fingers at the economic attractions of Pretoria; in fact, it is South Africa, which is immensely rich in natural resources but poor in water resources, that has need of the energy of Angolan rivers, which are necessary for the mines and particularly for the agriculture of Namibia.

Simultaneously, Angola, because of its military strength and political alliances, is the only country in southern Africa in a position not to yield to Pretoria's powerful war machine. These two constants should explain the unremitting South African attitude vis-a-vis the MPLA and the latter's resistance capabilities.

Nevertheless, South Africa has just obtained a "position of strength" along the Cuneme River, which is the border between Namibia and Angola, by invading Angolan territory for the second time on 7 June, but on this occasion, with the largest expeditionary force since World War I.

A few days ago, in Pretoria, one of the principal South African leaders made the following analysis for a personal representative of General Walls, outgoing commander in chief of the armed forces of Zimbabwe: "It is useless to count on the United States; you saw how they treated their ally, the shah."

"In London, at Lancaster House, we helped the five Western countries* with respect to Rhodesia without reciprocity on their part as regards Namibia.

---

*The FRG, Canada, United States, Great Britain and France which make up the "contact group" which is trying to negotiate a settlement of the Namibian conflict.

The British have a coherent policy favoring the emergence of the middle classes in southern Africa; however, neither they nor the French nor the Germans, not to mention the Americans, are openly helping us. Nevertheless --and this is of enormous importance--they are accepting the fait accompli.

"The situation has never been so favorable for us: the value of our natural resources (gold, diamonds, etc.) has taken gigantic leaps and, in the first few months of 1980, our trade with Black Africa, including countries such as Nigeria which are raising their voices against us, has increased 84 percent. The economies of Mozambique and Rhodesia are so dependent upon us that we are even ready to help Maputo and Salisbury improve their direct railway and road links! That is not at all troublesome to us.

"Our military superiority is evident; and we have obtained a position of strength along the Cunene River, prior to the solution of the Namibian problem, which permits us to gain time..."

As concerns Zimbabwe, Pretoria thinks that it must help Prime Minister Mugabe. But then, why not one day have its own south African Mugabe? With respect to Angola, the question is not so simple: every day which passes shows that the Angolan army is becoming stronger and making ready for combat. Although it is true that in June Angolan antiaircraft forces downed one of their own civil Yaks in the Lubango region, it is likewise true that of the six South African planes which entered the same area, three never returned to their base. In Mungwo, near Njiva (formerly Vila-Pereira-d'Eca), a South African battalion had to be evacuated by Puma helicopters.

At the time of the June invasion, Luanda once again wanted at any price to avoid internationalization of the conflict and ordered Cuban troops to withdraw from the combat areas.

However, thanks to Soviet and Cuban advisers and materiel, the Angolan forces are now in a position to conduct major operations on their own.

The South Africans have always maintained that they only entered Angolan territory to combat SWAPO guerrillas and not Angolan troops. In fact, a classical game is played every time: South African troops enter Angola, doing their utmost to avoid the positions of the handful of border troops which Luanda maintains in the region. The South African air force attempts, nevertheless, to dislodge these troops from their positions in order to machine-gun them; however, this maneuver is increasingly less successful. And then, in the face of the obligation to go to meet the troops invading their territory, the Angolans maneuver subtly to dispatch reinforcements from the north, at the proper moment and at the proper place.

Pretoria understands, therefore, that this "power game" cannot go on forever, all the more so because its fifth column inside Angola, Mr Savimbi's UNITA, has lost enormously in effectiveness. In fact, in the first place

UNITA poses a problem of refugees for the Angolan Government. The cities of Huambo and Bie have for months been invaded by tens of thousands of human beings in poor physical condition who are fleeing from the areas which Luanda had peacefully abandoned to the "control" of UNITA, in the expectation that things would sort themselves out. Second, in certain areas, the armed partisans of Savimbi are posing a problem which stems from banditry exacerbated by hunger.

Without the direct military assistance of South Africa, this guerrilla force would be completely reduced to banditry. The small border village of Kalai is often mentioned in communiques from both sides: the South African army, with its artillery and air force, chases off the Angolan garrison, permitting Savimbi's men to take up positions there; somewhat later, the Angolans conduct a surprise attack and sweep out UNITA. South African cannons and rockets once again are brought into action, and so on.

Nevertheless, it seems that far from establishing an airlift to be able effectively to help UNITA, Pretoria is beginning to abandon the latter which for some time has been receiving its principal support from Portugal, French-speaking Africa, particularly Senegal, and France, all unbeknownst to the Quai d'Orsay but not to certain French services.

However, the most serious obstacle to the Pretoria "power" option is the increase in Soviet military aid to Angola, which inevitably corresponds to the growing political influence of Moscow. Pretoria has cried wolf too often and finds itself by its own doing faced by a fait accompli: Soviet military aid to Angola has never been so great as now; and we would not reveal a big secret if we were to say that such aid will have a certain number of spectacular aspects in the next few months, particularly in the sector of secondary levels of aid. This inevitable consequence of the continuing aggression from Pretoria--with the tacit approval of the Western countries--has taken place at a time when Angola was seeking ways of relegating Soviet-Cuban military aid to the secondary level so as to better apply itself to the reconstruction of the country.

Two years ago, Claude Cheysson, European commissioner, following a remarkable private dialog in Luanda with the late President Neto, had informed the Western chiefs of state of this Angolan choice. However, what did the Western countries do? Nothing.

An increasingly costly military invasion, a real escalation in Soviet military aid, the loss of value of the UNITA card: Pretoria, with the help of a certain amount of good sense, wishes to take advantage of the "position of strength" to seriously propose border guarantees to Luanda, without tricks (at least for the moment). Pretoria has only to confirm these intentions by moving up the schedule for negotiation of war damages.

It is doubtless a last chance to keep the conflict between Angola and South Africa from assuming practically uncontrollable dimensions. However, action must be taken quickly: the MPLA congress will meet in December and already, in this perspective, great maneuvers are taking shape, both in Angola and abroad.

8143
CSO: 4400

SEYCHELLES PLANNING OFFICIAL FEARS MILITARIZATION OF INDIAN OCEAN

LD210947 Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 14 Aug 80 p 18

[Interview with Robert Grandcourt, Seychelles Economic Planning Ministry Under Secretary, by Odd B. Groenli: "Arms Buildup in the Indian Ocean Frightens the Small Nations"]

[Text] The superpowers are frightening the small nations in the Indian Ocean. Since the invasion of Afghanistan military activities in the Indian Ocean have increased. The tiny nation of the Seychelles, with a mere 60,000 inhabitants, has a central position by the oil corridor on the east African coast. A strategically important position--something which has led to the country's proposing in the strongest terms that the Indian Ocean should become a peace zone of the world. "The arms buildup in the Indian Ocean is frightening, and we will fight hard for demilitarization here. We will continue to work to create a body of opinion for peace among the countries bordering on, and situated in, this area," Economic Planning Ministry Under Secretary Robert Grandcourt said.

"We have been able to see most clearly the arms buildup in the Indian Ocean, and we fear that continued militarization would have dire consequences for us. When elephants make love, it is the grass which has to suffer. It would not take much before tourists, for example, would stop coming here because of unrest in the area. This could be catastrophic for us since tourism is our largest source of income," Grandcourt said.

The country has drawn conclusion from recent developments. As well as calling for disarmament through diplomatic channels, it has also put much effort into plans to create greater diversification within the national economy. It has realized the dangers of being too dependent on tourism. To help with this task the Seychelles have been given considerable support from Western nations in the form of gifts and loans on particularly good terms. The country is not receiving any aid from Scandinavia.

"We are a developing country," Grandcourt said, "but Scandinavia thinks otherwise. It is a pity that you have invested so one-sidedly in only a few African countries. Many of the millions that are sent to Africa are wasted or disappear because of corruption. We have no corruption here and

our successes in the fields of education and health show that we have invested wisely. We now have free health centers and a 9-year compulsory school system," Grandcourt said.

[Question] It has been claimed that the Soviet Union has a military base on the Seychelles' territory?

[Answer] These are downright Western lies. We have flown both American and British officers over all the islands here. And they have had to admit that there is no base here. But the press writes otherwise. I do not know their reasons. When we have Western ships in our ports here, nothing happens. When a ship from the Soviet Union docks here, we are branded as communists, Grandcourt said.

In the last 3 months the Seychelles have also undertaken exploratory drillings for oil, but so far without result. Plans for granite export are also being worked on. The country is attempting to create a mixed economy with both private and state-owned industry, and everyone who wants to will be allowed to work for the state for a minimum wage. On 1 August the night curfew was lifted, which would indicate that the government does not fear a countercoup since assuming power in 1977. Developments in the last 3 years have moved fast. The nation is so small that the results of policies are immediately visible. The aim has been to satisfy the people's basic needs. Enough food and work for all.

We have not been able to develop in any other direction, Grandcourt said. We must look to our resources and go in for small-scale production for our own market. [Answer ends]

Outside the ministry's windows we can see the fishing boats coming in. The sea here is full of fish--and fishing is a main industry here after tourism. Grandcourt also thinks that the sea is full of warships. And he fears them.

CSO: 4407

TOGO'S PRESIDENT EYADEMA CONFERS WITH 'ECOWAS' SECRETARY

AB211606 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 21 Aug 80

[Excerpts] The founding chairman of the RPT [Togolese People's Rally] and President of the Republic, Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema, this morning received in audience at the presidential palace two visiting personalities. The head of state first held discussions with Mr Aboubacar Diaby Ouattara, the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS. Mr Ouattara later told the press that he paid a working visit to the leader of the nation. He stated that he had informed President Eyadema, who is the current chairman of ECOWAS, about the development of the community since the Lome Conference. [Begin recording]

[Ouattara] President Eyadema is the current chairman of the conference of the heads of state of ECOWAS. It is therefore normal that I should meet with him as often as possible to discuss the development of the activities of the community. It is therefore a working visit that I am now making. During my visit to the president, I examined with him the problems of the implementation of the community's work program during the period of his mandate. We therefore examined the problems currently facing the community and I must say that on the whole, everything is going very well. But even if all is well, it is normal that we should determine our position even if it is only to make sure that things are going on very well. Therefore, it was really a working visit that I paid to the president. We established the timetable of the meetings of the community from now until the next summit of heads of state in May 1981. As you know, this summit will be held in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

[Question] Will you please tell us the state of the community since the last conference in Lome?

[Answer] As you know, the Lome Conference marked a turning point in the life of ECOWAS in that the decisions reached here in Lome [few words indistinct] were meant to be implemented as from next year. It is because of the importance of these decisions that we decided to give the states enough time to prepare for their implementation.

I would like to remind you briefly that we have the decision concerning the liberalization of exchanges within the community. As you know, the problem of creating a free exchange zone within the West African zone is a very important one as far as the ECOWAS treaty is concerned. This decision was taken here and it will come into force in May, 1981. But all the 13 states must make some administrative preparations before the decision can come into force. As I have said, the work program was made known to the chairman. The next ministerial council meeting will be held in November and the other meetings will follow next year, probably in May. [End recording]

CSO: 4400

BRIEFS

S. AFRICA-ZAMBIA COPPER EXPORTS--A spokesman for the South Africa's Railways and Harbors Administration has confirmed that negotiations are taking place to export Zambian copper through the harbor of Port Elizabeth. At present the shipments are passing through East London because of delays the Zambian copper industry has encountered in the port of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. The exports through Port Elizabeth will be containerized which will ensure a quicker, cheaper and more efficient service. Plans call for the handling of 100,000 tons of containerized copper and copper concentrates through Port Elizabeth per annum. [Text] [LD181838 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 18 Aug 80]

LUSAKA-ZAMBIA BANK PROGRAM--The Zambianization Committee has declared that it will tackle other institutions in the country after the current Zambianization issue on commercial banks has been resolved. Its chairman, Minister of State for Labour and Social Services, Mr John Chafwa, declared this in Lusaka last night during the television Zambia "Tonight" programme. Answering a question as to why he picked on commercial banks in the country as lagging behind the Zambianization process, Mr Chafwa said his committee has drawn up a [word indistinct] it would follow to deal with various institutions, and banks were just part of the program. He said the program includes names of other institutions his committee would tackle after the current Zambianization process in the banks is resolved, but did not name them. [Text] [LD201424 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 19 Aug 80 CA]

TOGO-BENIN-NIGERIA ENERGY COOPERATION--The Benin Electricity Community (CEB), which has united Togo and Benin since 1976, could be extended to cover Nigeria. It is to this end that experts from the community have been meeting in Lome since Monday to study the problems of merging the electricity resources of Nigeria, the CEB and Benin. The director general of the CEB, thinks this project is technically and economically feasible. Several international organizations, including the United Nations Development Program, the African Development Bank, the Canadian International Development Agency and the World Bank, are interested in this project. [Excerpt] [AB230654 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 24 Aug 80 AB]

CSO: 4420

OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON PLANNED PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

LD191338 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0530 GMT 19 Aug 80 EA

[Text] The people's assembly to be created in November will be the People's Republic of Angola's supreme organ of state power, with 206 deputies. This was stated by Zeferino Estevao Juliana, deputy coordinator of the permanent Secretariat of the National Commission for the institution of people's power at a press conference yesterday. He described the people's assembly as the supreme embodiment of people's power, whose principle tasks will consist of drafting and approving laws and guiding and supervising the work of the state's executive bodies.

The deputy coordinator added that candidates will be nominated by the MPLA Workers' Party; the party's youth wing, JMPLA; trade unions, and the Organization of Angolan Women, OMA; and elections will be undertaken by electoral colleges opening on 23 August by a secret and direct ballot. Zeferino Estevao Juliana went on to say that the electoral colleges will be constituted by delegates chosen at assemblies of workers or militants in cooperatives, strategic enterprises, state institutions and military units. These assemblies are already functioning. The deputy coordinator stressed, however, that under the rules governing the elections, deputies will not be allowed to interfere with the management of enterprises or bodies with which they are connected. He added that the deputies will serve as intermediaries who will study the actions and affairs of workers and also endeavor to effect comprehensive implementation of guidelines emanating from the supreme organs of state.

On candidature, Zeferino Estevao Juliana said that the National Commission for the institution of people's power will publish the names of the candidates for election as deputies to the people's assembly, which will be the supreme organ of state, and that the provincial commissions will publish the names of the candidates for local organs. He explained that candidates will be presented at public assemblies at which the people will be able to accept or dismiss them before they become the staunch defenders of the revolutionary cause.

Zererino Estevao Juliana ended the press conference by stressing that the holding of general and direct elections throughout Angola will be somewhat difficult due to the illiteracy affecting the majority of our country's population, the fact that no census had so far been carried out and to transport and communications problems in our vast territory.

CSO: 4401

EFFORTS TO STOP CIRCULATION OF COUNTERFEIT BILLS

Cotonou EHUZU in French 29 Jul 80 pp 1, 6

[Interview with Finance Minister Isidore Amoussou to the national press : "Circulation of Counterfeit 10,000 Franc Bills"]

> [Text] Recently, counterfeit 10,000 franc bills have been circulating in our country, with the result that quite a few tradesmen, as well as some financial enterprises, will not accept them any longer, no matter what they seem and whoever is the bearer.
>
> Our minister of finance, Comrade Isidore Amoussou, in an interview he granted to the national press yesterday, reported the existence of the current phenomenon before urging the male and female militants of the revolution to redouble their vigilance in order to uncover and stop the counterfeiters and their accomplices from causing any more harm.

Question: Comrade Minister, at this time in your economic operations a phenomenal rejection of the 10,000 franc bills is occurring. As minister of finance, under guardianship, for monetary and banking affairs, could you explain the cause for this rejection?

Answer: Quite true, our compatriots are refusing the 10,000 franc bill as there are some counterfeits. To be precise, and without reservations, in every commercial economy there are some citizens who use their physical and intellectual competence to unscrupulously appropriate the fruit of other people's labor. This is a social phenomenon. The offense of counterfeiting is as serious as that of committing a murder. I will add that it is almost like an attempt on the internal security of the state. Consequently, the qualified authorities will assume all their responsibilities. An inquiry is being conducted to detect the lost sheep of the national collectivity and they will be dealt with in pursuance of the law.

Question: Why, Comrade Minister, do these forgers appear to operate especially with 10,000 franc bills?

Answer: The reply is evident. It is much more profitable to operate with bills of a higher face value. That was how, before 10,000 franc bills were put into circulation, counterfeiter had operated with 5,000 franc engravings, which they seem to have abandoned for a 10,000 franc new cutting, as they would do tomorrow for a 20,000 or 25,000 franc cutting.

I take this opportunity to point out that this problem is not a problem of 10,000 franc counterfeit bills, but of forgery. With the same expenditure it is easy to understand that the object of obtaining maximum profits makes them use the higher cuts.

Question: Comrade Minister, what measures do you advocate should be taken to put an end to this situation which is causing great harm not only to private individuals but to the national economy, as it has come to our ears that your officials, especially those in the customs and treasury service, refuse to accept these 10,000 franc bill for payment?

Answer: In the first place, I want to draw attention to the fact that it behooves the recipient of the bill to use at least the minimum vigilance and check attentively the bill which is handed to him, especially if it is a 10,000 franc bill. In fact, in spite of the quality of the counterfeiting, the forged bills can be spotted.

In addition, transactions in 10,000 franc bills, are conducted between economic officials, capable of easily identifying a forgery.

Further, and specifically, as regards tradesmen industrial and other business men, it is up to them to find any means available in the market to detect the forged, and it should be noted that there are some devices; one is called a "WOOD LAMP."

Finally, as I indicated above, all legal measures to repress counterfeiting and the circulation of forged bills in our country, will be used without the slightest hesitation.

Question: Actually, Comrade Minister, how can the militants of both sexes in our revolution recognize the forged bills, especially the 10,000 franc bills in circulation at the present time?

Answer: Scrutinizing a series of forged 10,000 franc bills has enabled us to make the following observations:

--the paper of the forged bills lacks rigidity and resonance when examined;

--the cut is shorter than that of the real bill;

--the watermark which lacks shading is fluorescent through commercial detectors (a filtered ultra-violet lamp called WOOD);

--a somewhat superficial examination by the naked eye and touch, makes it easy to recognize that the bill is forged (quality of the paper, watermark, color, etc...);

--as we said before, there are devices to detect the forged bills.

Question: Comrade Minister what must one do when a bearer of forged bills confronts you?

Answer: The authors or accomplices of this falsification or forgery of bills being subject to punishment in conformity with the laws and acts in force, any bearer of forged bills must submit to investigation by the public security forces. For this reason it is important to inform the latter or any other competent agency when you find yourself confronted by a bearer of forged bills.

Question: When the militants notice that they have forged bills in their possession, can they return them to the bank and obtain satisfaction for the harm done to them.

Answer: The militants who unfortunately find themselves in possession of forged bills, must report this fact immediately to the public security forces. They cannot be indemnified and you will easily understand the reason for this stringent measure. In fact, non-indemnification protects the entire collectivity against the operation of the counterfeiters.

Otherwise it would be the national economy which would run the greatest risk of disorganization due to the fact that there would be two sources of monetary issues guaranteed in the same manner by our Central Bank.

In attempting to put them back into circulation, militant bearers of forged bills become accomplices of the counterfeiters and will suffer the penalties provided by the law. I wish to stress that the offense of counterfeiting is punished by penal servitude for life.

Finally, I wish to make an appeal to all militants (male and female alike) in order that:

First: they inspect and verify immediately all bills at the time of their transactions;

Second: that they bring their contribution to the Public Security Forces in order that they may detect all the counterfeiters and their accomplices and make them unable to harm anyone else.

Ready for the Revolution!

The struggle continues.

7993
CSO: 4400

PRESIDENT DISCUSSES FRENCH PRESENCE, ARABIZATION OF DJIBOUTI

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 5 Jul 80 pp 36-38

[Interview with Djibouti President Hassan Gouled Aptidon, Conducted by Sulayman Nimr]

[Text] Before I met President of the Djibouti Republic Hassan Gouled ptidon, a diplomat working in Djibouti told me, "When you meet President Gouled, if you ask him about the French presence in Djibouti he will tell you that his country is benefiting economically and militarily from it. If you ask him about national unity and the struggle between the Affar and the Issa, he will tell you that national unity is strong, and that what is said about conflict is nothing but rumors spread by biased persons. If you ask him about Arabization, he will tell you that Djibouti is making great progress towards Arabizing the country, and so on. The important thing is that President bouled will explain to you that there are absolutely no problems in his country, and that the poverty you see is caused by refugees from neighboring countries, and that the country has become independent just recently." When we informed this diplomat that we would bring up everything we saw and learned to the Djibouti president during our interview, this diplomat, who has worked a long time in Djibouti, told us, "I hope that you will leave this interview with something different from previous press interviews."

In fact, when we inquired into the personality of President Gouled, about whom I am sure very few people in our Arab world know anything at all, we were told that no one can deny that President Gouled is devoted to his country and to extricating Djibouti from the difficult conditions under which it lives, and that this man, who is about 60 years old, seriously wants to Arabize the country. But there are difficulties standing in the way of all that, the first being the French presence in the country and the final one being his strong sympathy towards the members of his Issa tribe, which oftentimes causes him to advance them in positions of influence and power at the expense of individuals from the Affar tribe.

At the beginning of our interview with President Hassan Gouled Aptidon, which was held at his office in the Republican Palance, the Djibouti president began talking to us in broken Arabic, saying excitedly, "Unfortunately,

journalists stay away from our country, and don't make the effort to come to Djibouti to visit us and look into the conditions under which we live. This causes such journalists to listen to biased rumors spread by some individuals aspiring to power, and base their verdicts on our country and its situation on what those persons say. We believe that in the amount of time you have spent here, you have been able to ascertain the real situation in our country, which is not as bad as the foreign press says. I would like to know what you think."

I told him, "Your Excellency, we will tell you our opinion in the course of the interview we will conduct with you, and through the questions which we will bring up." He replied excitedly, "So let's begin with the questions." So we started with the first question.

[Question] During the days we spent in Djibouti, we have made the following observations about the French presence in your country. First of all, France is not preparing a national army for the country; it wants the army to remain limited in numbers and in strength. Second is the presence of French political and economic influences in your country, via the French advisors present in every ministry and department in Djibouti. Third, is the effort to retain French culture as the predominant culture in Djibouti, and the French advisors' obstruction of any attempts to Arabize education and the country. Do you believe that the French presence, and especially the military presence, still serves your country's independence?

Before answering us, President Gouled excused himself for replying in French so as to be able to express his answer more clearly. He said, "The presence of French forces in Djibouti is within the context of the defense agreement between Djibouti and France. This presence is helping establish and equip the national army and train its personnel and cadres. This presence is also supporting the economic life of Djibouti, and does not conflict with Djibouti's independence at all. There is no french military base, but according to this agreement the French army will defend Djibouti in case it is exposed to any external dangers. This presence also has no hostile intentions towards foreign or neighboring states."

[Question] Your country's national unity is exposed to dangers threatening Djibouti's unity, and the reason, as some opposition circles say, is that your regime is based on the oppression of the Affars, who along with the Issa and the Somalis make up the population and citizenry of the Djibouti republic. Opposition circles also say that when you took power after independence, you began giving positions of influence in the government, administration, army and police to Issas, because you are an Issa. The opposition also says that you are not giving the Affars their real political rights. What does Your Excellency think of this statement?

[Answer] I am amazed that you would ask me this question and would take into consideration such statements, which were circulated by persons who yearn for the era of colonialism and who became rich at the people's expense during that era. There is a Paris newspaper which has published

these lying statements. But I believe that you, like many journalists before you, have noticed that all the groups present in Djibouti are contributing to the construction of the nation. In the cabinet, the army, the police, the banks, and the private sector, all the groups are helping run them and are contributing to the building of this nation without any discrimination. I am proud to say that my country cannot be compared to Chad or Lebanon! For your information, a delegation from the FAO recently visited Djibouti and spent 10 days here without being able to find anything contrary to the fundamental rights of man in our country.

[Question] We have noticed that the real problem facing your country is the poverty and unemployment left behind by French colonialism, which have been aggravated by the arrival of refugees from neighboring states. Now, 3 years after Djibouti's independence, the question which arises is: Why don't you draw up a long-range economic development plan which would ensure you an independent, flourishing economy, especially since a number of Arab states have expressed their willingness to help you finance and implement any economic project you might want?

[Answer] Right after independence, we took a number of steps and made a great effort to develop Djibouti's economy. We recently set up a planning office to prepare economic projects after surveying our country's available resources. With the help of friendly and fraternal countries, we have completed a number of these projects, which have helped strengthen our economic independence. At the present time, projects are being prepared as part of future development programs. We have signed a number of agreements with fraternal Arab countries, and we have begun reaping the fruits of this economic cooperation with these states. I would like to make it clear here that not everything can be done at once. Studies are being prepared for ascertaining our country's present and future needs. In this context, I can point out with pride that the republic of Djibouti has no foreign debts.

As for the problem of the refugees who have come to our country from neighboring states, they truly constitute a huge burden on the young Djibouti republic. We are accepting those refugees without any discrimination, out of our sense of humane obligation. Although the burden of supporting those refugees is a huge one for our state, the UN is helping us accommodate them, and is giving us the support needed to assist them. We call on fraternal countries which have the resources to help us quickly so that we can fulfill the needs of those refugees.

[Question] Some Arab petroleum states have offered your country a great deal of aid and financial loans. How do you evaluate this assistance with respect to improving your country's economic situation? Do you need more aid?

[Answer] Actually, we have received much aid from fraternal Arab countries, but in the face of our country's vast needs, we would like the Arab states to give us the aid we need so as to meet the needs of our people.

The thing that has led to the aggravation of the economic situation in Djibouti is the rise in petroleum prices. We are directly suffering from that, and we are looking to the fraternal Arab states to provide us the necessary assistance so that we can confront our difficult circumstances. (Saudi Arabia gave Djibouti $5 million last May as a petroleum price differential.)

[Question] In your country, there has been and still is extensive political activity to establish a political party, the "Grouping for Progress Party," to be the ruling party in Djibouti. Does this mean the abolition of the other political parties, and will you permit the formation of other parties?

[Answer] The "Popular Grouping for Progress Party" was founded by unifying the political parties and organizations which had struggled for independence. The formation of this party started at the base, and the purpose of its establishment was to get it to effectively participate in our country's political, economic and social development. By means of this party, every citizen will be able to express his thoughts and opinions in complete freedom, because the party represents all the political currents and tendencies in the country. You have been able to seize the opportunity of your being in Djibouti to witness the dialog going on now between party officials and all the popular sectors.

[Question] We have noticed that the French language is prevalent in the streets, and in the ministries and official departments of your country. This gives us a poor impression of Djibouti's Arabism, especially since we have the feeling that the attempts to Arabize the country have not been serious and are running up against many obstacles. What are you doing to Arabize the country and its culture, so that Djibouti can take on a real Arab aspect?

[Answer] As you know, the Republic of Djibouti attained independence on 27 June 1977. Right after independence, when we attained national sovereignty, we adopted a number of measures to restore Djibouti to the Arab nation. We joined the Arab League, which has helped us prepare a program for teaching Arabic in the schools, and which has sent us 65 Tunisian teachers to teach Arabic in a number of schools in the capital and in the interior.

As part of our bilateral relations with fraternal Arab states, there are a number of Arabic schools under construction in the capital and the interior. These schools are being built with funds provided by Saudi Arabia. Iraq has also helped out in this respect, having built a large Arabic school in Djibouti. In addition to the Tunisian teachers there are 40 Djiboutian teachers teaching Arabic in our schools. You have noticed the extent to which the Djibouti people adhere to Islamic values and the Arabic language in spite of 115 years of colonialism. I would like to stress that the Djibouti authorities are making every effort needed to spread Arabic culture throughout the land.

[Question] During the visit by your country's Parliamentary President Debre Askar to the United States last March, it was reported in Washington that the United States wants to acquire military facilities in your country. Is this true? In this context, what do you think of Somalia's announcement that it has agreed to grant the United States military facilities on its territory?

[Answer] These statements have no basis in fact. As for the Somali Republic, we have no comment on this matter. It would be better for you to pose this question to Somali officials.

[Question] Do you believe that international dangers and aspirations still threaten the African continent and the Red Sea, or that international aspirations are now directed towards the Arab Gulf area?

[Answer] On more than one occasion since independence, Djibouti has called for removing the Red Sea and Indian Ocean areas from the zones of conflict between the superpowers. We still hold this stand, and we call on the states concerned to conduct a dialog in order to achieve this concept.

When I informed the president that I had finished with my questions, he looked at me and said in amazement, "You have forgotten to ask us about our opinion and stand on the Camp David agreements and what is needed to oppose those agreements.

"As you know, Djibouti denounced the Camp David agreements, because we believe that the measures contained in these agreements totally ignore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their right to establish an independent state and regain Jerusalem. The notion of autonomy is the other face of occupation and colonialism. We ourselves suffered from autonomy for 26 years. Autonomy is something loathesome to the soul, just like colonialism, because there can be no agreement between freedom and occupation and oppression. During my visit last year to the United States, I explained to President Jimmy Carter that the Camp David agreements do not constitute a sound basis for establishing a just, durable peace in the region, and that the problem can be handled by giving the Palestinians their legitimate rights and the right to establish their own state. Our country is committed, and will stand by its commitments towards this Arab and Islamic issue. Even though we are a poor country, we consider ourselves committed to the Palestinian cause. For example, before independence Israeli ships would use the port of Djibouti when entering or leaving the Red Sea. That was because our country got financial benefits from the fees which we took in. In fact, the Israeli Zim Shipping Company even wanted to build large warehouses for us in the port. But after independence we expelled this company and forbad Israeli ships from using the port of Djibouti.

"As for opposing the Camp David agreements, we believe that uniting Arab ranks is the only way to banish the danger from the Arab nation."

When we finished the interview, the questions and the answers, the president of Djibouti entered into a long discussion of current controversial Arab circumstances. We also discussed these answers with him. The discussion was sometimes vehement on the part of His Excellency, but whenever he became aware of that he himself softened the atmosphere. We were reminded of what he said at the beginning of the interview, that "we would avoid any manifestations of protocol." At the end, President Gouled asked us to promise to not publish any details of the discussion and debate between us in the last part of the interview. Even though we were satisfied with the Djibouti president's official answers to the questions we brought up, they did not realize the wish expressed for us by the diplomat I met before interviewing President Gouled--that this interview would be different from the few press interviews he had granted before. We had to be content with these answers, because we promised, and a promise is an obligation. In addition, what President Gouled said during the final discussion would alarm many people and many Arabs.

8559
CSO: 4402

COMMENTARY ON CARTER-REAGAN POLITICAL RACE

Libreville L'UNION in French 26-27 Jul 80 p 5

[Article by Mengue-Ba-Nna: "The Carter-Reagan Duel"]

[Text] A year ago, political analysts were stating that no candidate could prevent President Carter's election to a second term. Carter himself was taken in and disdainfully sent his wife out to campaign alone in the primaries. He was afraid of nothing. The elections were but a formality after 4 years in office.

Four months before the all-important November elections, the same analysts are saying that it will be difficult to beat Reagan, Carter's Republican rival. What has happened in the meantime?

Apparently nothing! Except that Carter has become the principal electoral agent for a candidate who preaches a hard political line vis-a-vis Moscow. In recent months, Carter has wielded the Soviet threat and spoken of an alleged Soviet military superiority without doing anything concrete to counter it.

Reagan, a movie actor who played only supporting roles, found Carter's scenario very good and decided that for once in his life, he could have the lead. He may not be elected but his appraisal was accurate.

After all, what has America been under Carter? A country whose economy is ailing, a superpower whose allies do whatever they wish without taking it into account. Giscard d'Estaing and Schmidt calmly meet with Brezhnev without asking its opinion. The French and English are participating in the Moscow Olympics.

In Venice, newsmen and photographers "forgot" it. Giscard and Thatcher were the stars. The Frenchman had obtained the withdrawal of a Soviet division from Afghanistan and the British prime minister represented the West's hard line. Carter was nothing but an observer. How pitiful! "America First" will not forgive that.

The analysts are concluding that Carter's political future is in the hands of three major voters: Iran, the Soviet Union and the allies, three voters that do not always share Carter's interests. Will Iran rapidly free the American hostages? The current mess in that country does not give rise to optimism among Carter's supporters. Will the USSR withdraw from Afghanistan? Impossible before November! Will the allies pledge allegiance to Carter? On what occasion and for what reasons? Finally, on the domestic level, it is certain that the American economy will not recover before November. Carter may be reelected, but it would be a superb feat.

11,464
CSO: 4400

ABSENTEEISM MAY HAVE REPERCUSSIONS ON 'GABONIZATION' POLICY

Libreville L'UNION in French 14 Jul 80 p 3

[Article by Dady Bouchard: "Absenteeism: A Scourge for Enterprises"]

[Text] Absenteeism has become a scourge in Port-Gentil enterprises. Not a week goes by without one's seeing workers going to their foremen after an absence of 1 or 2 days to present fabricated excuses.

An investigation that we discreetly conducted in a number of local companies confirmed that absenteeism is widespread.

The periods during which the most absences are noted are in the middle and at the end of the month and on Mondays.

Because of this absenteeism, production is falling. In the Industrial Union for Equatorial Africa (UIAE), the rate of absenteeism varies between 2 and 5 percent, we were told by Jean-Fidele Ngouali, head of personnel. At Shell-Gabon, the situation is better: In 1979, the absenteeism rate was 1 percent.

In the CFG [Gabonese Railroad], service recorded 198 excused absences and 60 unexcused absences on 16 May, which meant a total of 258 workers absent that day. When one realizes that work at that plant is on an assembly line, one can imagine the consequences that might result and the difficulties encountered in trying to ensure smooth operation of the plant.

If this situation persists, it may finally cause company officials to give priority to Gabonese workers.

It would perhaps be better to inculcate notions of respect for work, professionalism and assiduity in workers. This task could be carried out by union and personnel representatives, who could organize meetings within their enterprises. Workers must be informed of the harm done to the country's economy by absenteeism.

11,464
CSO: 4400

AGRICULTURE SECTOR DIFFICULTIES REVIEWED

Libreville L'UNION in French 21, 23, 27 Jul 80

[Article by Mba Nguema]

[21 Jul 80, pp 1, 4]

[Excerpts] On the very eve of the second seminar of Gabonese agriculture and forestry officials to be held in Oyem, the agricultural sector (which still occupies nearly 80 percent of the Gabonese population) is still in the grip of serious difficulties inherent in the very underdevelopment characterizing the country as a whole.

This situation is marked by a disarticulation of the mining, forestry and agricultural sectors, which contribute the major portion of the gross national product.

While the mining and forestry sectors are essentially export oriented, agriculture remains the only integrated activity of the Gabonese economy, but it accounts for only 4 percent of the gross national product. As a result, its contribution to the improvement in the population's standard of living is insignificant.

Activities in this sector are divided into four major areas: industrial crops, including cacao, coffee, oil palms and sugar cane, to which one may add livestock raising and the food crops that ensure the food self-sufficiency of rural areas and part of the food supplies for urban centers.

Outside of coffee and cacao, which are mainly for export and for which local processing plans are already being contemplated, the rest of the agricultural production is absorbed by the domestic market.

Despite this appearance of advanced integration, the level of development of Gabonese agriculture remains insignificant because of the lack of investments and the total absence of organization of a sector which occupies a large share of the active population.

According to certain European planners, unlike the case of other African countries whose economy is essentially rural, agriculture is not being called upon to play a driving role in Gabon's economic growth. They nevertheless recognize that this policy should tend to increase the dissemination of the income of the modern sector toward the rural world and make it possible to constitute one step in development. However, it is rapidly becoming apparent that mining and forest investments are not having an effect on the other sectors, particularly in rural areas, where the standard of living remains very low and where farming techniques are still very archaic.

Furthermore, if one considers food crops for which there are no market problems despite the major handicap of the poor condition of roads for marketing production, one notes that these food crops have not received the benefit of any particular investment effort.

[23 Jul 80, pp 1, 4]

[Excerpts] After over 10 years of an all-points mining and industrial policy, results are not what the government had anticipated. There is an ever widening gap between rural areas and urban centers which include nearly the entire modern sector.

Over the years, the cities and mining and forestry centers have steadily drained the rural areas, thereby depriving agriculture of the arms it needs for its development, not to mention survival.

This situation, accompanied by the lack of any government policy on rural development, has had catastrophic results, to wit: a total decline in agricultural production, an exodus of young people from rural areas, and the increased dependency of the country on imported food products while the population of cities and mining centers grows at a rapid rate.

Finally, one notes a weak participation of agriculture in the gross national product, which has not yet exceeded 4 percent.

Among the projects being carried out and aimed at remedying the bankruptcy of the agricultural sector are the following:

The Ntoum banana project: 600 hectares of plantain bananas already in full production. Cost of the project: 3,725,000 CFA francs.

The Upper Ogooue Sugar Company (SOSUHO), whose purpose is to meet all national sugar needs. 1980 objective: 30,000 tons of sugar. Cost of the project: 17 billion CFA francs.

The Port-Gentil Agricultural Company (AGRIPOG), aimed at supplying the entire Port-Gentil urban area (economic capital of the country) and the Libreville area with food and market garden products, making it possible to limit imports of vegetables while reducing prices. Cost of the project: 350 million francs.

The National Company for the Development of Industrial Crops (SONADECI), whose purpose is to promote the development of industrial crops throughout the territory of Gabon. At the present time, it is entrusted with the completion of a project to regenerate and expand the Woleu-Ntem cacao plantations.

[27 Jul 80, p 4]

[Excerpts] Since 1975, the year coinciding with the commencement of the major national agricultural projects, studies aiming at their completion have been made by foreign research firms based on information supplied by experts from the ministry. However, these experts have not therefore been associated with the studies or brought into the execution of the projects. It can be observed within the ministry that national technicians are not informed about the characteristics of the projects in question or about the technological methods used in their completion.

The projects are turned over to them only when financial resources are exhausted.

According to the same report, the financial study of the farm-grazing companies such as AGRO-GABON and SOSUHO shows that foreign participation has a majority in most cases. Not only is this situation not normal, but the government's contribution through supports provided between the cost price and the sales price is a financial drain on public finance. Aside from the code governing national agricultural cadres, whose duties still have to be upgraded in order to attract young people to the sector, one notes an almost total absence of national cadres. All young university graduates newly recruited are assigned to Libreville. Promotional work among peasants is almost nil because of the lack of rural extension workers, fewer and fewer of which are being trained.

In addition, the report notes that the influx of expatriate cadres into parastate companies is a dangerous burden to budgets set up for the completion of projects.

No Follow-up

Finally, financial allocations given to the Ministry of Agriculture for the operation of these different departments and the pursuit of certain actions in the interior of the country are insignificant. Budgetary insufficiencies have engendered a situation resulting in a lack of agricultural equipment and of means of transportation at both the central and provincial levels. This reduces the action of the ministry with respect to agricultural extension work, organization of the peasantry and project follow-up.

11,464
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GENERAL POPULATION CENSUS ANNOUNCED FOR AUGUST

Libreville L'UNION in French 24 Jul 80 p 4

[Article by Mualabu Mussamba and Jean-Marie Nguema]

[Text] The general population and housing census will in principle begin on 1 August. The census is being organized jointly by the General Statistics Directorate of the Ministry of Planning and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).

On that day, President Omar Bongo and his family will be counted at the Renewal Palace. On that occasion, the president will deliver an address in which he will emphasize the importance of this evaluation of the population.

It should also be pointed out that if the chief of state ordered this important operation, it was first of all in order to obtain an overall view, the most accurate knowledge possible of the way in which our population is distributed and in order to learn the human resources of our country.

In this connection, an informational mission will leave Libreville on 27 July in order to make a 3-day tour of the interior of the country.

Yesterday, 23 July 1980, we met in Libreville with Fausther Edmond, deputy general director of statistics (who is supervising the census in the different districts of the capital).

After speaking of the duty of each citizen in the general population and housing census, Edmond assured the Libreville people that the information that will be gathered from this operation is of cardinal importance at the village, provincial and national levels. Thanks to such information, our social and economic planning may be improved.

We must therefore understand that this census, whose purpose is to learn how many of us there are and who we are, must attract the attention of each and every one of us.

How are we to know what equipment we need if we do not first know who will use it? The task of those who will make decisions will be easier when they have an exact knowledge of the population and housing.

That is why we must correctly answer the questions put to us and properly welcome our census takers.

11,464
CSO: 4400

BRIEFS

CHINESE SCHOLARSHIPS IN SCIENCE--The People's Republic of China is offering Gabon a number of scholarships in the scientific and technical fields. Persons interested in applying for the scholarships may obtain information from the Scholarship and Training Directorate (Office of the Director). [Text] [Libreville L'UNION in French 14 Jul 80 p 4] 11,464

CSO: 4400

PAPER HAILS LOCAL-LEVEL PARTY ELECTIONS

AB240715 Abidjan DRATERNITE MATIN in French 23-24 Aug 80 p 1

[Editorial: "A Good Start"]

[Text] The "Ivorian Democratic Train" has set off, and quite well, too, in spite of a few blunders which inevitably accompany such a vast experiment.

That the president should be satisfied with the success of these first elections is very significant. Even the so-called democratic countries experience incidents during elections as a few people are incapable of controlling their passion and preventing it from overriding their common-sense.

The results of the elections for the secretary generals of the subsections of the party have shown, however, that contrary to what may have been expected our people have demonstrated their maturity. The renewal of 190 subsections for 8,000 villages, including only three protests and two cancellations, is certainly a beautiful, encouraging and instructive score for the next elections.

The head of state was right in believing in the wisdom of the people who proceeded to make what they considered the right choice. They renewed their confidence in 90 former secretary generals and gave 100 new political officials the chance to prove their worth.

We all know that things will no longer be the same because the actions of the men and women who have (or who will) canvassed for our votes and have used all means to obtain them will be observed, commented upon and analyzed. They will have to demonstrate their sense of dialogue, their readiness to serve others, their efficiency and their honesty.

But it is at the level of the party that the change will be most noticeable. The passive and indifferent attitudes that the people used to have toward the former subsections will henceforth give way to enthusiasm and infatuation. The party used to suffer from the fact that the people disliked certain secretary generals of the basic party subsections.

These men and women, whose duty it was to control the militants and ensure the liaison between them and the hierarchy, were shunned by the people.

Therefore it is an honor for the head of state to have been the first to understand this fact. Would another leader not have contented himself with fake stability? Would he have seen the need to carry out a real political revolution himself in response to internal signs and especially external events?

The events we are experiencing are certainly national, but they must also be placed in an international context. It is known throughout the world that popular discontent is deep in the face of imposed restrictions, declining living standards, the widening gap between rich and poor, and increasing misery. Workers' strikes are becoming intense and politicized.

No country can escape this tense social situation. Governments are shaking, including eastern ones, although they are more centralized and police-controlled. However because of the violent reaction of their people, they are being forced to retreat and rescind unpopular decisions and to satisfy the demands of the masses, who thirst increasingly for liberties such as freedom of choice, freedom of expression, etc.

It can therefore be understood why our democratic experiment is being followed with interest both in Africa and in Europe. It is very rare for a single party to organize a really democratic "battle," to refuse to impose its choice on voters and to proceed toward change in an atmosphere of continuity!

The Ivory Coast has once more offered an example of democratization within a single party system without making noise or unseasonable remarks. The joy and enthusiasm seen in the country after these first elections show sufficiently that we are on the road to success. But let us remain vigilant to fight against demagogy and dishonesty, which seek such opportunities to take their course.

CSO: 4400

BRIEFS

BREAD, CORNMEAL PRICES RAISED--Prices of bread and cornmeal have been increased with effect from midnight tonight. A 500 gram loaf of bread goes up by 40 cents and will cost 2 shillings instead of 1.60 shillings. A two kg packet of cornmeal will now cost 4.20 shillings instead of 3.80 shillings. Wheat flour will cost 6.70 shillings instead of 5.55 shillings per 2 kg packet. The producer price of a bag of wheat goes up from 135 shillings to 150, while a bag of corn will cost 90 shillings instead of 80 shillings. The price increases were approved today by a cabinet meeting at State House, Mombasa. [Text] [LD262158 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Aug 80 EA]

CSO: 4420

DOE COMMENTS ON PRC'S LABOR, BUSINESS, SOCIAL POLICIES

AB161415 Monrovia Radio Elwa in English 1200 GMT 16 Aug 80

[Text] The Liberian head of state and chairman of the People's Redemption Council [PRC], Master Sgt Samuel Kanyon Doe has delivered a major policy speech following his recent five-county tour of Liberia. Addressing PRC members and cabinet ministers at the Unity Conference Center in Monrovia yesterday, head of state Doe touched on matters affecting labor, business, education, and announced several decisions in an effort to ease tension and bring greater happiness to the Liberian people.

On labor, he declared that in view of the serious economic situation facing Liberia, government would not encourage demands from workers which might evoke labor unrest and greater hardship for the people. Sergeant Doe, however, said this should not be interpreted as an infringement on the rights of Liberian workers because, he added, their legitimate claims will receive government's immediate attention.

Master Sergeant Doe observed that Liberia has rich untapped natural resources. What is required, he said, is to provide a healthy investment climate for investors to come in and work in partnership with government.

On the improvement of living conditions, head of state Doe said: We consider it important that all Liberians be able to live in decent homes and have adequate transportation facilities. In this light, he said that when economic conditions improve, government will guarantee long-term loans to its employees for housing and transportation and will encourage the private sector to do likewise. For low-income-bracket people who cannot afford borrowing, Sergeant Doe said government hopes to build more low-cost houses and improve public transportation.

Speaking of the need to improve Liberia's international image in a world which he said had traditionally respected Liberia, head of state Doe declared: We cannot live in isolation; the actions we take here are reflected throughout the world and this certainly has a bearing on the economic progress we make. Consequently, he proposed that all major problems be reviewed including the economy, financial and political situation, behavior of men-in-arms, as well as unauthorized occupation of private homes by soldiers.

Of the major problems in Liberia which need to be reviewed immediately, Master Sergeant Doe went on, are confiscation of property, the safeguarding of foreign investment and all matters relating to labor and unemployment in the country. Sergeant Doe also said because of the continuing role PRC members have to play in the decisionmaking process, which requires their presence in the capital, members of the council will have to limit their visits to the counties and undertake such tours only when necessary on a quarterly basis.

Consistent with the PRC's commitment to bring in free and quality education to Liberian students, head of state Doe announced that the council will contribute over $76,000 toward government's education program in the country. Recently, the ministry of education abolished registration fees at Liberian government schools up to the senior high school level, while government subsidizes 50 percent tuition and books for Liberian students attending college in the country.

Regarding the business sector, head of state Doe declared that all businessmen in Liberia are free to order all commodities that are in demand in the country. These, he said, include rice, building materials, foodstuffs, agricultural products, clothing and cement, the provision of which had been confined to the (Sineco) Company in Liberia.

CSO: 4420

MINISTER WARNS AGAINST INCITING LABOR UNREST

AB212015 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 21 Aug 80

[Text] Labor Youth and Sports Minister Fred Blay has appealed to workers of companies and concessions in Liberia not to join what he called a handful of antirevolutionaries whose basic aims are geared toward crippling the economy of the nation.

Lieutenant Colonel Blay was speaking Tuesday when he met with nearly 3,000 workers of the National Iron Ore Company in Mano River, Grand Cape Mount County. Minister Blay said the PRC [People's Redemption Council] government had observed that a handful of dissidents are in the practice of secretly trying to mislead workers by inciting them to create labor unrest. He said government would not hesitate to bring to justice any dissident group caught in such practice.

Responding, the general manager of the National Iron Ore Company, Mr Charles Russel, assured Minister Blay that his company is making all efforts to provide the workers with all that they have requested.

CSO: 4420

OFFICER DENIES TREASON CHARGES BEFORE TRIBUNAL

AB202110 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 20 Aug 80

[Text] Col Arthur Bedel, one of the nine army officers being tried for treason, today told the military tribunal that the allegation against him was false and based on hatred and jealousy because of the growing friendship that was developing between him and the Liberian leader following the 12 April coup. He said he had nothing against the Liberian Government. And he said following his appointment as head of the air force unit of the Liberian armed forces, a friendship of mutual trust developed between him and the Liberian leader, Master Sergeant Doe.

Colonel Bedel said the head of state had always invited him to the executive mansion, and each time he went there he was warmly welcomed. He noted that at one time when the Liberian leader visited the (James Spriggs) Airport, he embraced him [Bedel] very warmly and boosted his image in the eyes of his colleagues. At another time, he said, the head of state asked him to organize the new Liberian air force and recruit 10 persons for jet aircraft training abroad. Because of this incident, Colonel Bedel said, the deputy chief of staff, (Gen Albert Kaper), developed hatred against him. He said several times (General Kaper) told him: I don't understand you and I don't trust you. Colonel Bedel said (General Kaper) and his brother, (Ruben Kaper), who testified to the state against him, are the only ones who claim to know about the attempted countercoup.

CSO: 4420

BRIEFS

IMF GRANTS AID--The International Monetary Fund, the IMF, is to make available $85 million in aid to Liberia over the next 2-year period. The aid from the IMF is in addition to $20 million from the United States and $23 million from the Federal Republic of Germany to support Liberia's annual budget for the current fiscal year. Planning and Economic Affairs Minister Dr Togba Nah-Tipoteh said the Liberian Government had to agree to adopt an extremely stringent economic policy to obtain the IMF aid. Three weeks ago, an IMF team visited Liberia to study the country's economic situation following the cou,. [Text] [AB260830 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 25 Aug 80]

CSO: 4420

COOPERATION BETWEEN FRANCE, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR REVIEWED

Tananarive MADAGASCAR-MATIN in French 20 Jul 80 pp 1-2

[Text] On the occasion of the national holiday of a nation, it is the custom of our newspaper to make a rapid review of the bilateral and multilateral cooperation situation between the RDM [Democratic Republic of Madagascar] and the country involved. Now the abundance of news last week prevented us from presenting a report on the nonetheless very flourishing and solid cooperation between France and Madagascar.

For Madagascar, France today ranks first among the countries with whom we maintain close relations. This can be seen by a rapid scan of the horizon. French public aid--gifts--to Madagascar came to 12 billion FMG [Malagasy francs] in the course of 1979, that is to say as much as the bilateral and multilateral aid from all our other foreign partners combined. By virtue of this, therefore, one must recognize the true value of the excellent current relations between Madagascar and France, as was stressed moreover in the course of the 14 July reception at the French House by the Messrs Ramanantsalama and J. P. Campredon.

President Didier Ratsiraka deserves the credit for this present quality in French-Malagasy relations. While minister of foreign affairs in the government of General Gabriel Ramanantsoa, he took pains to review and correct French-Malagasy cooperation, thus establishing, as of 1973, a new plan, that of meetings of the commission representing the two countries. The main craftsman of the revised cooperation agreements, as he was called at the time, was indeed President Didier Ratsiraka. And if the current stage in relations has been achieved, it is indeed thanks to a certain courage on his part, the desire to put an end to the restraints of the past, the unequal relations and other defacto monopolies.

The following are the thoughts of French Ambassador to Madagascar Jean-Pierre Campredon, for his part, regarding the philosophy of this cooperation.

"Before speaking of the present cooperation between France and Madagascar, it would be well it seems to me to say a little about the partners, about

what their relations were in the past and the unique place they occupy in a more and more "chaotic" universe.

The partners? Two old nations with long-standing ties. This began with relations of a colonial type. Madagascar did not escape this vast movement which spread to all the continents other than Europe--America, Asia, Africa and Australia. Could Madagascar avoid this phase? This is not the place to take up this problem. But it is the time to recall that it was in the course of this period that this French thirst for knowledge of your profound country was born. It is a thirst which will never be satisfied and which derives from a continuing and entirely objective desire on the part of our geographers, our historians, our sociologists, engineers, doctors and scholars to penetrate ever deeper into the knowledge of your people and your country. I might mention today, more or less at random, the names Grandidier, Laborde, Deschamps, Boiteau, Domenichini, Ayache, Petter, Albignac, Le Deaut and so many others of yesterday and today. The full list would take a whole column, not to mention the remarkable work of your own academy.

When the nature of political relations between our two countries changed, when you won your independence, this mutual desire to know each other better, to analyze each other further, did not however fade. Our relations took other forms, but this old basis of mutual understanding, mingled increasingly with feelings of friendship, was but confirmed. To our mutual desire to know each other ever better has been added increasingly a subjective desire to respect and appreciate each other more and to aid each other more effectively.

Today, the citizens of France and Madagascar can analyze the difficult years they experienced in the past with greater calm and clarity, and our present relations are no longer, thank the Lord, hindered or conditioned by events which go back into the past. They can be summarized in that beautiful word cooperation, a word which however requires careful definition and placement within the general context of relations of various sorts which can exist between nations.

In fact, the nature of international relations can be very diverse, ranging from war to peace, from detente to cold war, from the desire for power to the desire for hegemony, indeed the effacement of a national entity. All of these relations are evidenced in our poor, sick, threatened, unstable universe. Is this not what clearly emerged from the last OAU summit meeting in Freetown?

The problem of development is without any doubt the most important of this century, or in any case it ought to be. The peace of the universe--a universe unhappily in the grip of egotism--depends on its harmonious solution. Peace depends on the establishment of a just distribution of natural resources and investments among all nations. Your country and

ours are making an effort to have this understood and we are working more or less objectively in this direction. I am thinking in particular of your president's proposal to the last conference of nonalined nations, of the efforts of our president to promote the North-South dialogue (which will resume in the United Nations on 25 August, and in which France plans to play an active role in order to insure the advance of international solidarity and to contribute by appropriate measures to the recovery of the world economy). I am thinking also of our proposed African-European-Arab triple partnership.

Here, thanks to our bilateral cooperation, which was happily relaunched in 1977, my country, like yours, I think I can state, is aware of participating in the building of this ideal world cooperation, so true it is that it is developing in a harmonious and constructive atmosphere. I have no hesitation in stating that our cooperation relations constitute a model of their kind, for they measure up very well to the basic criteria of peace, progress and mutual interests.

Our golden rule calls for absolute respect of your political choices and aiding you only in the realms in which you ask for our aid. Without a doubt we cannot participate in all the operations you propose, for our means, alas, are not unlimited, and also because we feel more capable in certain fields than in others (I am thinking more particularly of the fields of education, training, and rural and industrial development).

Yes, we are deliberately absent from your political realm as such--your president stated this clearly in a recent interview. What interests us, what impresses us, is the welfare of the nation, the well-being of "all men and every man," as your president liked to say to my teacher, the Rev Father Lebret, with whom I have worked in a developing world since 1957--in Morocco, Brazil and the Near East, before pursuing my career as a deliberately "Third World" diplomat in West Africa, East Africa and finally on your great island.

But in order to know how our cooperation works, what it consists of, and how we pursue it with you, hand in hand, I urge you to discuss it with each of my colleagues heading the various departments of our embassy.

However, before leaving you, let me confide in you. Far from being jealous, France is happy to see the aid and technical assistance provided to your country diversified and extended to international by these and ever more numerous countries. Madagascar has so many natural and human resources that there can never be too many of us to help you to develop them.

And after all, is that not the key to "general success?"

Trade Relations and Aid

As Ambassador J. P. Campredon stressed in his preliminary report during the interview we had with him, he is highly in favor of the establishment of what is being called today the "African-European-Arab" trilogy. It will take more time to develop its form. The French-Malagasy dialogue, on the other hand, has already become a reality. We had occasion to realize this in discussing French-Malagasy cooperation with the main departments involved at the French Embassy in Tananarive (cultural department, trade department and aid and cooperation mission).

For example, on the trade level, France remains the main supplier of Madagascar (32.2 percent of the market). This figure, as well as the others we will give in this connection, are taken from the bulletin of the INSRE [National Institute for Statistics and Economic Research] published for the year 1979. France remains the leading supplier, followed by the United States (10.7 percent), since the whole of the value of the American Boeing delivered in March 1979 is included in this institute's statistics (11 billion FMG), the FRG (losing ground, with 9.2 percent as compared to 13.9 percent the preceding year); Iraq (6.5 percent); and finally Japan (5.7 percent). In this same connection, we should note the appearance of Spain (2.3 percent) among the leading 10 suppliers of Madagascar. However, the relative contribution of France to Malagasy imports continued to decrease during the fiscal period under consideration (34.4 percent in 1978). This is perhaps very simply the result of the diversification of Malagasy trade on the basis of our "all directions" policy.

Because of the decline in sales by Madagascar to the United States (minus 56 percent), France became the leading client of the great island again in 1979 in the export sector (25.8 percent as compared to 23.1 percent in 1978), followed by the United States (14.7 percent) and Indonesia (12.9 percent, representing exclusively cloves).

But in a general way, one can see however that the balance in French-Malagasy trade remains amply favorable to France. French exports to our country (43 billion FMG) total twice the amount of French imports from Madagascar (21 billion FMG).

With regard to FAC [Aid and Cooperation Fund] subsidies--nonreimbursable--Madagascar received a total in the course of 1979 of 967.5 million FMG, distributed as follows: rural development (450 million), infrastructure (467 million), education and training (50 million). The Central Fund for Economic Cooperation, for its part, granted us a loan in the amount of 6,650,000,000 FMG repayable at particularly convenient interest rates. In addition, there is the nonreimbursable aid to the Pasteur Institute (53 million FMG).

And in major outline, this is the present status of French-Malagasy cooperation. To this must be added the French contribution to the multilateral relations (European Economic Community, United Nations Program for Development, etc.). Thus, it can be seen that relations between Tananarive and Paris are good, indeed excellent. And this is developing further because during the next meeting of the mixed French-Malagasy commission in Tananarive toward the end of this year, the two parties will doubtless find other reasons for intensifying their relations.

Cultural Cooperation

Teachers and technical cooperative personnel:

- In secondary education--191;
- In technical and vocational education--139;
- In higher education--117;

Total as of 1 June 1980--447.

Scholarships:

- A program of 675 million FMG;
- Apprenticeship, study and research scholarships.

Gifts of teaching materials:

- In public education:
  School manuals, scientific and teaching materials totaling 35,890,800 FMG in 1979;
  Equipment for technical secondary schools (program of 275 million FMG);
- In private education: 35,189,800 FMG;
  Teaching manuals and materials and technical equipment.

Review courses for Malagasy teachers:

- Course in teaching languages for primary inspectors and teaching advisors (October-December 1979);
- Course for those in charge of the work at technical establishments (June 1980);
- Course in teaching French as a foreign language (July 1980).

Diverse university conperation:

- Study trips to France for Malagasy university personnel--10,845,000 FMG;
- Books for university libraries--10 million FMG in 1980;
- Visiting French professors--20 in 1979;
- Interuniversity agreements--three have been signed, others are being drafted;

- Aid for the training of Malagasy researchers--DEA [Applied Economics Department] program for applied biological sciences--100 million FMG (1978-1979).

A cultural center established for Malagasy culture and achievements:

By way of example, the large exhibitions devoted to the Malagasy railroads or agriculture, the achievements of the Madagascar Geographers' Association, etc.

The active French-Malagasy Cultural Associations, which propose to provide the members in the provinces with libraries, films, performances (French or Malagasy), language courses (French and Malagasy), etc.

Cooperative efforts in the realm of radio, cinema and television:

- Delivery to the RTM [Malagasy Radio-Television] of a mobile video reporting unit for color television (mounted on two Renault R 30 vehicles);
- Provision of television and radio programs;
- Participation in the making of the film "Fitampoha;"
- Training of Malagasy personnel at the National Audio Visual Institute (INA).

And above all the state of mind which enabled the minister of foreign affairs of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar to pay homage at the opening of the second session of the mixed French-Malagasy commission on 20 March 1979 to the efforts of France to adapt to the new conditions of Malagasy cultural independence.

5157
CSO: 4400

NEW UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS POLICY CAUSES CONTROVERSY

Minister's Explanation

Casablanca MAROC SOIR in French 2-3 Aug 80 pp 1, 2

[Text] Rabat 24 August (MAP)--Dr Azzedine Laraki, minister of National Education and Training of Administrative Staff, granted an interview to RTM [Moroccan Radio and Television], broadcast Friday night, in which he examined the results of this year's baccalaureate and the conditions under which the next university term will be carried out, especially regarding registration procedures in the departments in the light of decisions approved by the government of His Majesty the King of this subject.

Regarding the results of the baccalaureate, Laraki said that out of 74,194 candidates, 28,828 were admitted, that is to say 38.85 percent.

Questioned about the smallness of the number of candidates received in the universities, Laraki specified that the main reason for this situation is that many students aspire to universities that are not suitable for them.

Questioned about measures taken by his office to receive the new bachelors, Laraki reasserted that every bachelor who does not limit himself to a single department will have a place in the universities.

Laraki particularly emphasized the necessity of guiding students according to the country's true needs, while taking into account the abilities and merits of each.

Laraki cited as an example the difficulties encountered by bachelors of law and philosophy, whose number far surpasses the country's needs.

After having given an outline of the places available at various universities, Laraki asserted that we must fill the gaps in the teaching field regarding teachers of Arabic, Islamic education, physical education, etc.

Laraki also urged bachelors to register at various military schools in accordance with the wishes of His Majesty King Hassan II.

Reaction of Students, 'AL-BAYANE'

Paris LE MONDE in French 7 Aug 80 p 4

[Article by Roland Delcour: "Students Protest Against Worsening of Selection for University Entrance"]

[Text] Rabat. University reopening in Morocco promises to be turbulent. In fact, the Ministry of National Education and Training of Administrative Staff has just published a communique that raised a genuine outcry.

The communique announced nothing less than the establishment of a new selection system for students entering the university, to be based on the grades obtained in the baccalaureate. Moreover, candidates for the various departments were asked to present within 48 hours a file of candidacy to one or several departments in one or several fields.

But the communique specified that "Candidates will be classified by order of merit, by considering points earned at the time of the baccalaureate examination and according to the number of places vacant in each field." There followed a list of available places in the various universities: Rabat, Casablanca, Fez, Oujda, Marrakesh and in the various specializations: letters, law and science, without omitting Islamic law, taught only at Fez and Agadir, Islamic principles taught at Tetouan and the Arab language, whose study center is at Marrakesh. In all, including teaching and technical institutes, 30,470 places would be available, according to the ministry, that is to say more in any case than the number of bachelors (28,828).

The organization of Istiqlalien students, UGEM [General Union of Moroccan Students] as did UNEM [National Union of Moroccan Students], the large student organization, denounced this "selective procedure depriving thousands of students of their right to register for higher education." UNEM also demands reopening the philosophy department, which, not being mentioned in the ministry's communique, would be purely and simply abolished.

Deputy Ali Yata, the only representative in Parliament of the (Communist) PPS [Party of Progress and Socialism] has been demanding unsuccessfully up to this time an emergency meeting of the Parliamentary Commission on National Education to study a process which, according to Yata "constitutes a new barrier" and establishes an increasingly elitist university. The deputy stated that the new criteria would actually eliminate about 15,000 students out of 30,000 bachelors.

In a long editorial AL-BAYANE, newspaper of the (Communist) PPS in fact disputes the ministry's figures, asserting that the departments are

actually offering not more than 14,310 places, with the other 15,000 coming from recruitment by competitive examination.

The students in any case seem decided to react against what they consider as the introduction of a real "numerus clausus" for university entrance.

9545
CSO: 4400

BRIEFS

TAX AGREEMENT WITH GREECE--Abdelkamel Rerhaye, minister of finance, and Panayotis Rellas, ambassador extraordinary from Greece to Rabat, on Monday, 28 July, signed an agreement aiming to avoid a double tax on income from the use of ships and aircraft in international traffic. Rerhaye emphasized the importance of this agreement, which is the first stage of an extended cooperation. The minister pointed out that under this agreement the income obtained from using ships in international traffic will be taxable only in the country in the territory in which these ships are registered or by which they were provided with titles of nationality. Similarly, income from air transport companies will be taxable in the country where the head office of the active management of these companies is located. [Excerpt] [Casablanca MAROC SOIR in French 31 Jul 80 p 2] 9545

PM's MEETING WITH PRESS--Maati Bouabid, prime minister and minister of justice, on Tuesday morning received a delegation representing the national union of the Moroccan press, consisting of: Abdelkrim Ghallab, Ali Yata, Mohamed El Yazghi, Mohamed Drissi Kaitouni and Hassan Haraki. During the meeting they examined professional issues and material and moral problems that the national press encounters, particularly the prices of raw materials, transportation and domestic and foreign distribution, relations between national newspapers and the MAGHREB ARAB PRESS AGENCY, the professional journalist's card and the opening of a union head office as well as coverage of the activities of official delegates who travel abroad. After studying these issues, they decided to meet in the coming weeks with the president of the [illegible] to study the problems of raw material and printing. Bouabid dec[illegible] hair a meeting with the interested ministers to examine the other i[illegible]es. [Text] [Casablanca AL-BAYANE in French 7 Aug 80 p 1] 9545

CSO: 4400

BRIEFS

NEW INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS--Arrangements have been completed to begin direct international flights to Port Harcourt, the River State capital. The air services, which will begin in November, will be between Port Harcourt, Amsterdam and London. This was announced by the managing director of Nigeria Airways, Mr J.A.B. Smith, during a courtesy call on the deputy governor of the River State, Mr Frank Eke, in Port Harcourt. [Excerpt] [AB182030 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 17 Aug 80]

NEW MINES AND POWER MINISTER--The minister responsible for steel development, Mr Paul Unongo, has been reassigned. He is now to take charge of the Ministry of Mines and Power. The Executive Office of the President said today that the minister of mines and power, Alhaji Mohammed Ibrahim Hassan, will be reassigned. [Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 27 Aug 80 AB]

BRAZIL TRADE--Goods estimated at 29 million naira were imported into Nigeria from Brazil during the first quarter of this year, against 15 million naira in the corresponding period last year. The commercial secretary of the Brazilian Embassy in Nigaria, Mr (Reuben Barbosa), told the news agency of Nigeria that the goods include [word indistinct] parts, cotton and sugar. Mr (Barbosa) disclosed that Brazil has been assisting Nigeria in livestock development under a joint program. [Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 11 Aug 80 AB]

CSO: 4420

FIFTH CONGRESS OF REUNION COMMUNIST PARTY DISCUSSED

Forces of Change

Saint Denis TEMOIGNAGES in French 19-20 Jul 80 p 1

[Editorial]

[Text] The Fifth Congress of the Communist Party of Reunion afforded many chances for reflection to any attentive observer of Reunion's society.

Not the least of these was the striking contrast between the preoccupations, objectives, ideas and efforts of the communists and the subjects and topics put forth at the same time by the bourgeois news media.

While the latter were making abundant reference to military parades and flower shows, to an "English ex-colonel who had become a derelict in Tarbes," etc...the communists were talking about the national situation, the causes of the decline, unemployment, emigration, decline in productivity and of struggles both for cultural renewal and for national liberation.

Everything happened as if a world was in the process of dying and did not know it or as if another world was being born and the inhabitants of the old one were oblivious to it all.

One can find analogous situations in history. On the eve of the explosion of May 1968, the bourgeois press devoted itself more willingly to fashion, horse racing and the banal routines of political life than to the fundamental problems which gave rise to the great currents of questioning at the heart of French youth and the working class.

At the eve of the outbreak of the Algerian patriotic struggles, how many in the press spoke of Algeria and of its situation and the imminency of upheaval?

The real importance of the Fifth Congress was to have beneath the surface of things, embraced the movements present in our society, to have gotten to the bottom of its problems and their causes and to have proposed an alternative to decline.

There lies the true reality in the life of the masses, in their hopes and their desire for change.

The irrefutable analysis of the PCR is deeply rooted in fact, in the reality of recurring ideas which show that the economic and social crises of Reunion are constantly worsening. It is confirmed by the development of the state of affairs.

On these grounds, no one would want to engage in a debate with the PCR that they would be doomed from the start to lose.

The right blames advanced solutions and the demands which they bring together: Democratic and Popular Autonomy.

It is surely waging this fight, supported by its trilogy of basic arms: assistance, fraud and repression. But on the level of intellectual struggle, its only choice lies between silence and falsification. If the lasting struggle of TEMOIGNAGES and the tremendous popular demand forced FR 3 to speak of the Fifth Congress, to devote a few minutes to Paul Verges, and to show several shots of the Congress, we are still very far from a democratic and pluralistic media. The JIR (a rightist political party in Reunion) has not heard of the Fifth Congress. But because of the reverberations this latter caused, it was obliged to attack the PCR. It did so indirectly through the pitiful tactics of diversion and falsification. Of course, we are not so naive as to believe that the entirety of the right is as totally out of touch as Martin-Darene, as ignorant as a Vallee, or as crassly buffoon as a Virapoulle. But it is still striking that it did not manage to find other spokesmen and another line of argumentation!

In 1848, at the time of the abolition of slavery, its partisans cried scandal, plunder and injustice!

In 1946, when forced labor in the French colonies in Africa was brought to an end, those who enriched themselves by exploiting the natives cried catastrophy, madness and demagoguery!

In Reunion, when the progressives, believing that the colonial statute was over, were struggling for departmentalization, the Martin-Darenes and the Vallees of the time cried wickedness, insults and for the French empire.

Today, when everything shows and demands that the people of Reunion take their affairs into their own hands, the litany is beginning again.

Like their predecessors, they will not succeed in stopping the course of events.

The Fifth Congress of the PCR has proven the existence of Reunion's society of the forces of change, forces who have succeeded in finding the path of hope and who will be victorious with autonomy, social progress and economic and cultural development.

The decisions taken by the Fifth Congress, with a party that will have 10,000 members in a year's time, to engage in all areas of struggle and to take the activity of the party into all social spheres, are the decisions of a force for progress.

The positions of the Fifth Congress are the stands of a force which gathers and unites the people and gives them confidence.

The Fifth Congress, as Paul Verges said in his closing speech, was a "passionate call...for the men, women and youth of our country to arise," to unite the forces of change.

Powerful, Organized Force

Saint Denis TEMOIGNAGES in French 21 Jul 80 p 1

[Text] One of the lessons put forth by Paul Verges, the secretary general of our party, at the end of the work of the Fifth Congress of the PCR was that this congress showed that it is a "powerful and organized force."

This congress, in fact, was not a simple meeting assembling more than 1,000 persons by means of posters, leaflets and televised and radio campaigns, among others.... It was the gathering of delegates appointed by basic party procedures several weeks beforehand. These 1,022 delegates were authorized to discuss, vote and make decisions on behalf of thousands of communists. To some extent, these delegates form the strength of our party.

But the strength of the PCR does not lie only in the number and quality of its militants and members. It is also the result of the deep establishment of the party in the masses (from which more than 80 percent of the delegates came), a deep-rootedness due to the support of their demands and the formulation of policy to meet their fundamental aspirations.

At the same time, the ideas of the Communist Party of Reunion are having a growing influence on the middle classes. Several dozen intellectuals, functionaries and professionals, to name a few, attended the congress.

All this demonstrates that our party constitutes an undeniable force, despite the great efforts of its opponents to minimize it. This force makes up the only alternative to the present authority and is the only one capable of mobilizing the men and women of Reunion to promote change in conformity with a policy that has become a policy for the masses: that of Democratic and Popular Autonomy.

To be effective, such a force must be organized. And the Fifth Congress proved that it was.

Every town, what is more, every neighborhood, was represented by a delegation from its grassroots organization.

Twenty one years after its founding, our party is endowed with a strong organization, which constitutes a guarantee for future successes. It is also necessary to add that this organization, based on the principles of democratic centralism, is the only one which can ensure the largest possible amount of discussion among party members. Prior to the congress, all the communists were familiar with (through having discussed them as a preliminary) the major topics which would be put to the congress. Let us also note that at the RPR (Assembly for the Republic) Congress, which was held a week before in Saint-Louis, everyone (including the RPR leaders) was unaware of what the Bernard Pons and Michel Debres said... at the rostrum of the congress of their party.

This is not possible in the PCR and this again shows that only our party is concerned about letting the people have their say, and listening to them in order to be better able to act in defense of their interests.

The PCR is "a powerful and organized force," which must be even further improved, in conformity with the directives of the Fifth Congress, in order to more rapidly obtain Democratic and Popular Autonomy.

Social, Cultural Progress

Saint Denis TEMOIGNAGES in French 22 Jul 80 p 1

[Text] The Fifth Congress of the PCR has painted a precise picture of the situation in our country. The analysis made by our Comrade Paul Verges showed the possibilities this situation offers to the forces of change and the tasks it imposes on the entire party. One of the firmest and clearest conclusions drawn by the congress was that in the aftermath of the Fifth Congress, the Communist Party of Reunion must double its efforts and initiatives in order to be present everywhere.

At this new stage of its struggle, it is necessary for it to have an activity of a new type in order to effect real progress.

This was the import of the message of the secretary general of our party, in his closing speech before the congress.

"We must be everywhere in Reunion, penetrate all social classes and be present in all struggles, for it is these deep roots in our people that determine the condition for victory."

This victory is the effective exercise by the people of Reunion of their right to conduct their own affairs in the interests of the masses.

This goal cannot be achieved without much ongoing work to unite the people of Reunion. Beginning with the specific preoccupations of all classes, we must make their common interest apparent, in order to develop the political conscience that the solutions for the problems of individuals lie in united action to achieve national development and the social and cultural progress of the people through Democratic and Popular Autonomy.

For this to be possible, the party must always be increasingly more attentive to the masses and their demands. We must be active in the unions where one can find the masses of laborers, workers, employees, agricultural workers and functionaries. It is there that we must push for the demands of the masses. We must also organize the workers who do not belong to unions. Action is also necessary to bring the neighborhoods, communes and towns to a greater realization of the problems of housing, transportation, protection of the environment, cultural demands and problems of students and their parents.

The party organizations, particularly the cells and the sections, must increasingly take the initiative for timely action. They must fully assume their responsibilities towards the daily defense of living and working conditions. They must stand up to bourgeois propaganda through further elaborations of party policy.

Being present everywhere means not letting even one facet of life on Reunion fall under the clutches of departmentalist ideology and its means of propaganda.

Who else but the communists can bring these topics to light, delve into essential problems, combine the energy of all? No one else is capable of these tasks in their place!

By listening closely to the people, the communists can better and further develop these actions because they have popular support and assistance and thus correspond to the thoughts and deep interests of the masses!

Fully aware of the trust placed in them by the people, communist militants can transform the disenchantment here and turmoil elsewhere into active and convergent forces by means of action which leads to concrete results.

By reinforcing the feeling that struggle is a necessary path, they contribute to the deepening of the masses' confidence in the Communist Party and the party's deep-rootedness in the people of Reunion.

Opportunities for struggle are not lacking. In the words of Paul Verges, the communists must be eternally vigilant in the "support of the struggles of workers and their unions, the struggles of women and their organization, the UFR (Union of Reunion Women) and the struggles of our youth and the FJAR (Autonomist Youth Front of Reunion)". He insisted that "we must support and encourage in every instance the movement for cultural revival which expresses not only the sufferings but also the hopes and confidence of our people."

It is at the price of this intensive work to improve the quality of their work and their party, in order to be able to meet the demands of the situation, that the communists will one day be able to "add the greatest date to the history of our country--that of its liberation from the regime of colonialism."

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CSO: 4400

CULTURAL LIBERATION OF REUNION EXAMINED

Position of Communist Party

Saint Denis TEMOIGNAGES in French 17 Jul 80 pp 10-11

[Article: "Pursuing Cultural Liberation and Political Liberation"]

[Text] On the occasion of the Fifth Congress, we received from a group of comrades a contribution to our reflections on the Reunion cultural question. We found the contribution interesting within the framework of the drafting of a cultural charter of the Reunion Communist Party. Its text follows:

How is one to appreciate the formidable development of cultural expression now being affirmed in Reunion in all its diversity?

What are the main lines marking and orienting the search for a broader cultural conscience?

Based on what criteria should we determine our position on the different currents being manifested?

Through certain statements and measures, is the colonial power not trying to divert this phenomenon from its basic purpose?

Finally, how are we to tighten the bonds that should link culture and politics?

These are the main questions facing us today. The answers we shall provide will enable us to adapt our overall policies to the evolution of our situation and thereby better establish our party among the masses of the people so that it may truly be their spokesman.

Common Points

It is obvious that to a great extent, these responses are found in the process of training our people.

A brief look at our history enables us to retain three important points: the diversity of our settlement, the vast undertaking of assimilation of the colonial government and the still fragile aspect of an affirmation of the Reunion personality.

The diversity of our settlement has its logical extension in the diversity of our culture. This diversity is manifested at several levels. Musical expression, dances, religions and so on are all places where the people of Reunion express and experience different sensitivities. It would be long and tedious to enumerate here the original practices of every group among our people. Let us simply say that on certain points, we have different reactions and attitudes. To take but one example, the *maloya* is not a universal element in which all the Reunion people see themselves.

Having said this much, it is now a question of enumerating all our common points, which are by far the most numerous. First of all, there is our language. Undeniably, it is a unifying element. Whatever their origin, the Reunion people understand one another. The scornful insinuations of certain colonialists, who never stop belittling and detracting from Creole, can do nothing about this fact. Our cooking and music are also fields in which our common sensitivities can be seen. Our way of thinking, our attitude about death, our behavior in life and our love of country are all facts that we share.

Currents

All of these things call forth political forces, which are divided into different currents. The first assimilative current minimizes the originality of our culture. It is considered as only one of the many facets of French folklore. The negation of the African and Indian nature of our culture responds to this concern, and we have often read in the bourgeois press that the French contribution constitutes the most interesting part of our cultural heritage. Obviously, nothing could be more false.

But in a kind of passionate, fanatical blindness, those who follow this movement refuse to take the true situation into account and blur differences between the people of Reunion and the people of France. Furthermore, for them, the people of Reunion are but a population group of a rather vague identity to which one can grant extremely limited rights.

Maneuvers

This opinion of a minority group, shared as late as a few years ago by the colonial government, is losing ground every day. The flowering of the people's cultural expression is so obvious that reactionary forces cannot ignore it in their political proposals.[3] [No footnote given]

In place of direct, outright repression, a more supple policy is drafted that pretends to accept our cultural dimension in order better to divert it

from its natural path. It is not rare today to hear ministers and rightist party leaders talk of our originality as a value to be safeguarded and promoted.

Actually, this is an extremely dangerous maneuver whose goal is to separate cultural liberation from political liberation. It is thought that satisfying cultural demands would prevent one from having to pose the essential question -- that is, the liberation of our country. Is it not this movement that is joined by the Creole current which speaks of "Creole Frenchness" or "French Creoleness"? The movement is praised to the skies and backed by the government.

In fact, for the past several years, Reunion's literature has been enriched by works as abundant as diverse. Our writers and poets find their source of inspiration in the fight of our people. Moreover, the emergences of cultural groups also expresses the determination to assert the Reunion identity.

First Cultural Act

It is precisely on the question of the relation between what is cultural and what is political that one finds the line of demarcation separating the Creole movement from the positions defended by the PCR.

We forcefully affirm that the liberation struggle is the first cultural act.

How, in fact, can one defend and promote the culture of a people except by giving that people the political means for liberation and fulfillment?

How is one to promote the expression and development of the Reunion soul except by freeing the Reunion people from the chains of colonialism?

We believe that these two terms -- to wit, cultural liberation and political liberation, must be pursued. It is obvious that by giving one of these two aspects priority over the other, one would end up with aberrations extremely dangerous to the unity of our people.

Search

Obviously, we recognize the legitimacy of the aspirations of the different factions of our people in searching for their roots. This responds to a desire to have a better appreciation of one's contributions to the Reunion culture as a whole. One can therefore do nothing but encourage the search.

And yet, this search must not come as a refusal to assume the values and customs bequeathed to us by our common history. The original cultures of every component of our nation have rubbed elbows, have been enriched by that contact and have taken on new dimensions, becoming a uniquely Reunion culture.

In other words, the search for our different roots is a positive step because it responds to a legitimate need for knowledge, but the accent will be placed more on our resemblances than on our differences.

The fact is that an exacerbation of our differences inherently contains the danger of communalism, in which the racial question predominates over the class problem.

We believe that it is precisely by bringing the cultural liberation together with the political and racial struggle that we shall be able to avoid such dangers.

For while we do have a common language, cooking, cultural tradition, appreciation of the scale of values nd a way of thinking, we also share a tradition of political struggles against colonialism. This common resistance to the oppressor constitutes the mortar holding our people together.

The battles waged together, the blows suffered together and the victories won together have created bonds of brotherhood and solidarity between us, bonds that have gone beyond our differences.

Moreover, these differences cannot be analyzed in terms of opposition. This diversity is expressed in the search for unity and within the framework of a common political undertaking. Only this path will guarantee the future of our people in a free and fraternal society.

True Question

Having forcefully reiterated the relationship between the cultural struggle and the political struggle, it is now a matter of asking about the criteria that will determine our judgments in the face of such an undertaking. It is not a question here of attacking art, its dimensions and multiple expressions in any way.

It is not the place of the PCR to take a position on this point. We wish to say simply that any undertaking in the direction of the affirmation of the Reunion personality is in itself positive.

There is then the question of form. Is one to write in Creole? And next, what spelling is one to choose? Is what has been called regional French, as a compromise between French and Creole, the best solution? Should Reunion writers abstain from writing in French?

Here also, it is not up to our party to dictate the choice to be made because that would amount to a kind of intellectual terrorism.

We believe that inasmuch as the Reunion personality is felt in different ways, every artist has the right to express himself as his own sensitivity dictates. The basic criterion is naturally the very content of the work. Is it against oppression and for liberation? That is the real question.

No Dogma

Another point to be mentioned is that of religious practices. By virtue of the people's practice, the Christian religion, the Hindu religion and other cults belong to Reunion's culture also. On this important question, our party refuses to make a dogmatic judgment.

We start from a concrete fact: The vast majority of the people of Reunion believe that religion, their beliefs and rites constitute an essential dimension of their lives. They follow their beliefs in different ways, depending on their place on the social scale and using their own form of expression.

The members of the PCR are proud to have among their ranks many believers who, without in any way negating their religious concepts, are involved in the revolutionary struggle. One cannot accuse them of any contradiction. We would even affirm that the participation in a struggle for a political purpose of liberating productive forces and man, all men, is the best way of showing the depth of one's faith. Consequently, communists militants and believers find in their party the means of their own fulfillment.

We repeat: There are no contradictions on our part. It is merely a question of knowing whether the Catholic Church in Reunion and the Hindu religion allow their followers the freedom to follow both their faith and a political commitment to revolutionary forces.

In this connection, we would make a distinction between the religious institution and the faithful. While the former must reproach itself for collusion with the forces of money in the past -- to a lesser degree today -- the great mass of believers did not follow the same path; on the contrary. The number of believers in our party proves this beyond a doubt.

Greater Place

It is now time to outline the main orientations of our party's action in the cultural domain.

Our first task concerns the search for unifying elements. They form the foundation of our people. It is important to promote them in order to strengthen the Reunion identity.

Along the same line, the establishment of means aimed at facilitating forms of expression is a major need. The formation of cultural troops in districts, the organization of festivals in order to enable local artists to express themselves and a concern for providing a greater place for Reunion culture in exhibitions organized by our democratic communes can be the support points for such action.

In addition, our campaign to gain greater respect and increased appreciation for Creole in the schools, public administration and the courts should be broadened. It is totally unacceptable for authorities, using a certain

political context as a pretext, to deny our children the right to express themselves in their maternal language. By so doing, they hinder their fulfillment by denigrating the culture they inherited. Nor can there be any question of letting Creole in the back door for the sole purpose of enabling children to learn French more easily. Creole must have its rightful place on an equal footing with French.

Creole As Language of Instruction

Saint Denis TEMOIGNAGES in French 24 Jul 80 p 10

[Text] Following the article "Pursuing Cultural Liberation and Political Liberation" published on our cultural page last week, another group of comrades has given us their contribution to the debate underway on the cultural charter of the Reunion Communist Party.

We are happy to publish it.

We repeat that these different contributions reflect only the views of their authors. Other future contributions will be published in TEMOIGNAGES on the condition that the debate remain calm and unmarked by polemics.

The party's decision to procede to draft a cultural charter is a timely one. For a number of years, in fact, we have been witnessing a veritable explosion of Reunion cultural expression. While the latter is generally positive, it is nevertheless marked by divergent and even contradictory currents, in the face of which a responsible political party has a difficult time not taking a position.

Within this framework, one can only hail the contribution of a group of comrades published in TEMOIGNAGES on Thursday and entitles "Pursuing Cultural Liberation and Political Liberation." This contribution is the end result of a work of far-reaching reflection that must be praised.

Our contribution is more modest and concerns only a limited aspect of the vast cultural problem. It deals with a question that may be formulated as follows: Should Creole be the language used in education?

Agreement and Disagreement

We know that this question divides Reunion democrats, whether or not they are communists. We would have hesitated to bring it up in the group of comrades whose article appear in TEMOIGNAGES on Thursday had not opened the debate by their contribution.

Moreover, we are anxious to emphasize that the dispute only has to do with the precise point of the language of instruction; nothing else. There is unanimity in our ranks in affirming that it is important to give Creole its

rightful place in our people's political, social and cultural life, in order to demand that in offices, public administration, police stations and the courts, the choice of language, Creole or French, should be officially recognized by everyone, which implies bilingual capabilities on the part of those wishing to serve us in public posts.

Even in the field of education, divergencies are not as extensive as one might think from the passionate positions taken. These who believe that French must remain the language of instruction in Reunion nevertheless affirm the need, in education and especially in order to learn French, to take local linguistic circumstances into account, to base methods on a comparative knowledge of Creole and French. In no way do they exclude the oral use of Creole in the first years of school, insofar as this may contribute to easier learning for children. Nor do they see any disadvantages, "at certain levels, of allowing students desiring to do so to study Creole as another language in the schools"(TEMOIGNAGES, 18 July 1978).

The discussion therefore has to do exclusively with determining in what language children are to be taught, in what language school texts should be written, in short, in what language mathematics, science, history, geography, philosophy, law, economics, and so on, must be taught.

Some favor Creole "from kindergarten to the university," to use a famous slogan, French being relegated to the role of a privileged foreign tongue. Others, such as the authors of Thursday's contribution, favor "the respect and increased appreciation of Creole in the schools," deeming that "Creole must have (in education) its rightful place *on an equal footing with French*" (our emphasis). We personally believe that with the above reservations, the French tongue should be used in education. The following are our reasons:

3,000 Spoken Languages; 50 Languages in Education

Insofar as they serve as a means of expression for humans equal in dignity, all languages have the right to our respect. Just as there are no inferior or superior peoples, there are no languages that are intrinsically inferior or superior. But languages, like peoples, are far from being at the same stage of evolution.

Languages are the creation of the people. They are made in their image and respond to their needs of expression. They vary in richness, in intricacy, depending on the degree of intellectual development of those who speak them. There is a world of difference between the French of the Middle Ages -- "the language of daily life, practical usage and physical sensation, the language of coarse soldiers and strong peasants with few ideas and scarcely capable of reason" (G. Lanson) -- and the French of today, shaped, flexible, enriched for over ten centuries, by innumerable writers, poets, scientists, philosophers and politicians.

Compared with one another and precisely insofar as they have not reached the same degree of evolution, languages necessarily present differences in their ability to express -- beyond the complexities of what is concrete -- the nuances of feeling and the subtleties of abstract thought.

One must remember this fact when one decides on the choice of a language of instruction through which one is to train, not only shrewd planters and skilled workers but engineers, doctors, economists and even philosophers.

Moreover, the universal experience of nations guides us in our choice. The languages of few peoples are used in education. While there are from 2,500 to 3,000 languages in the world, only about 50 have been promoted to the rank of languages of instruction: four on the entire American continent (these are European languages, moreover); less than a dozen in Africa (including four African languages, the same ones as in America); about 20 in Europe; scarcely more in Asia.

Universal Experience of Nations

At a time when the colonial powers were dividing up the world, colonized peoples were not consulted on the choice of languages taught. There was no question in the schools of teaching any languages other than those of the colonizers. But Latin America, Asia and Africa became liberated one after another and one can see that few new languages have come to be used in education. It is still French that is taught in Algeria and English in Ghana. Wherever a new language has appeared in education, it succeeded, among other reasons, because it had a written literature, in contrast with many other languages or dialects. Such is the case of Madagascar.

In Europe, where no foreign authority hinders the freedom of choice concerning the language of instruction, the situation is no different. In southern Belgium, it is not Walloon that is taught, but French. In northern Switzerland, it is not Alemannian that is used in the schools, but German. None of the numerous dialects spoken in Italy, Austria, Germany, Spain, even still in France, is accepted in the schools. In each country, it is the language of culture that is closest linguistically, the language that offers the most complex structures and has a written literature, that is chosen.

The case of Ireland is particularly instructive. This country was occupied by the English for centuries. Its people had to fight for decades to gain independence, but after liberation, when it could choose the language of instruction in complete freedom, it decided that English, the language of the former oppressor, was more apt to play the role than the Irish Celtic spoken by the population as a whole.

It is true that in the Soviet Union following the October Revolution, the nations once colonized by the czar were taught in their own languages, for which it was sometimes necessary to create alphabets from scratch and write grammars. This is understandable, since there is nothing in common between

these languages (Altaic and Uralian) and Russian (a Slavic language). Furthermore, they were related to no written language that could serve as a language of education. The Soviet authorities therefore decided that the best vector of instruction for these peoples was their own languages, at least during the first years of school, while Russian took over later.

The example of Romania, another socialist country, is also illustrative in this connection. That country has half a million inhabitants of German origin to whom, after the revolution, the government granted cultural autonomy. This minority was therefore able, in complete freedom, to choose a language of education other than Romanian. It chose, not its Germanic dialect, but German.

Consequently, the universal experience of nations, an experience common to the peoples of the West as well as those of the Third World, the peoples of capitalist countries as well as socialist countries, teaches us that at all times and in all places, the languages of culture have prevailed over the vernacular in education. We believe it would be difficult not to take this into account in approaching the problem facing us in Reunion.

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CSO: 4400

COORDINATING COUNCIL, POLITICAL BUREAU COMMUNIQUES

Sao Tome REVOLUCAO in Portuguese 13 Jun 80 pp 1, 4

["Text" of communiques issued by the Coordinating Council of the Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome and Principe and its Political Bureau--date not given]

[Excerpts] The Coordinating Council of the MLSTP [Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome and Principe] met in extraordinary session from 21 to 26 May, to determine what practical measures should be taken to implement the resolutions of the Extraordinary Assembly of the MLSTP, specifically with regard to the function of the high, intermediate and rank-and-file structures of the MLSTP.

The plenary session of the Coordinating Council, in accordance with the decisions of the assembly within the MLSTP structures, made an exhaustive analysis of problems related to the functioning of the Council of Commissioners, as well as the conduct of some political commissioners, both with respect to their party activities and their professional relations and relations with the general public.

In plenary session, the Coordinating Council observed:

1. Most of the political commissioners do not have enough political training to enable them to meet the present requirements of the party with respect to the mobilization, organization and politization of the masses in general and of party members and candidates in particular.

2. Some political commissioners use their position to mask personality disorders, and are occasionally authoritarian in their relations with the general public.

3. Many political commissioners have evinced no effort whatever to improve, to raise their political and cultural level; as a result, they are not equipped to transmit correctly the fundamental ideals on which the tenets and program of the MLSTP are based.

4. The low political and cultural level of some political commissioners is at the root of a certain confusion of ideas circulating among the masses, confusion which is being exploited by rumormongers and agitators to discredit the MLSTP itself.

After intensive debate, the plenary session of the Coordinating Council determined:

1. To intensify the political training course for the commissioners and to organize study groups, to insure the continuing improvement of the political consciousness.

The Coordinating Council, meeting in plenary session from 22 to 26 May gave attention to the following items on the agenda:

1. Critical analysis of the action and conduct of some members of the Coordinating Council.

2. Specific measures to insure the improved function of the MLSTP structures. Regarding the first item, the Coordinating Council determined:

a.) Considerable progress has been made with respect to the use of frank criticism and self-criticism and to the evaluation of the political action and conduct of the council members.

b.) Liberalism is still being practiced within the council.

c.) In the practical implementation of party guidelines, some council members act on their own initiative, not always consistent with the decisions and resolutions of the Coordinating Council.

In the course of its proceedings, the Coordinating Council analyzed the second item on the agenda; i.e., specific measures to insure the improved function of MLSTP structures, in accordance with the decisions of the Extraordinary Assembly of the MLSTP.

After an intensive analysis regarding said item, the Coordinating Council established:

1. The malfunction of intermediate and rank-and-file structures of the MLSTP has had a negative effect on the pace of activities to mobilize the public in general and the party members and candidates in particular.

2. The inadequate performance of MLSTP structures is basically the result of a lack of permanent party cadres.

3. Some leading cadres, particularly within the higher structures, should be designated to devote themselves exclusively to party work.

In this regard, the Coordinating Council determined:

a. To give very particular attention to party work.

b. To relieve some executive cadres of their duties in the state apparatus, to insure greater dynamism and efficiency in political activities within the party.

3. To increase to 10 the number of members of the Political Bureau. To this end, three more comrades were appointed to the Political Bureau. They are Celia Umbelina dos Prazeres, Antonio do Rosario A. Vaz and Maria do Nascimento Amorim.

4. To create the following departments within the Executive Secretariat of the Political Bureau:

--Department of Organization and Cadres;
--Department of Information and Political and Ideological Training;
--Department of Mass Organization and Relations with the Popular Assemblies;
--Department of Economic Affairs;
--Department of Social, Educational and Legal Affairs;
--Department of Foreign Relations.

The Coordinating Council congratulates itself for the high level of the debates, and is convinced that the decisions and resolutions will contribute to strengthening unity and discipline within the organization and to increasing efficiency in its action.

The Political Bureau of the Coordinating Council of the MLSTP met on 30 May 1980 to discuss the following items on the agenda:

1. Nomination of the executive secretaries of the departments of the Executive Secretariat of the Political Bureau.

2. Nomination of the provincial secretaries of the MLSTP.

3. Nomination of the district secretaries of the MLSTP.

Pursuant to the decisions of the Extraordinary Assembly of the MLSTP and the decisions of the Coordinating Council, which met in special session from 22 to 26 May, the Political Bureau, in its meeting of 30 May, determined the following appointments:

1. Comrade Leonel Mario de Alva, member of the Political Bureau of the Coordinating Council, as executive secretary for the Department of Economic Affairs.

2. Comrade Evaristo de Carvalho, member of the Political Bureau of the Coordinating Council, as executive secretary for the Department of Social, Educational and Legal Affairs.

3. Comrade Tome Dias da Costa, member of the Political Bureau of the Coordinating Council, as executive secretary for the Department of Mass Organizations and Relations with the Popular Assemblies.

4. Comrade Maria Nascimento Amorim, member of the Political Bureau of the Coordinating Council, as executive secretary for the Department of Foreign Relations.

3. The Departments of Organization and Cadres and of Information and Political and Ideological Training will remain under their present directors.

For improved operation of the intermediate organs of the MLSTP, the Political Bureau determines the following appointments:

1. Comrade Osorio Umbelina dos Prazeres, member of the Political Bureau of the Coordinating Council, as provincial secretary of the MLSTP in Principe.

2. Comrade Leovigildo dos Santos Reis, political commissioner, as provincial secretary of the MLSTP for Sao Tome.

3. Comrade Raul do Barramento Bambeira, political commissioner, as district secretary for Lemba.

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the Extraordinary Assembly of the MLSTP regarding the negative effects of the duplication of functions, particularly at the level of the intermediate structures, the Political Bureau determined:

1. That the present district commissioners, presidents of the District Assemblies, be relieved of their functions as district political commissioners.

2. That the political work of the party at the district level will be coordinated directly by the respective provincial secretaries until such time as district secretaries are appointed.

3. That the Department of Organization and Cadres assign, by zones of action, the present political commissioners and assistants.

C.C.

CDA: mgl

STUDENTS IN CUBA TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH MOTHER COUNTRY

Sao Tome REVOLUCAO in Portuguese 31 Mar 80 p 2

[Excerpts] "Many of our students in Cuba have distinguished themselves, standing among the highest in their classes and in their entire schools, both in their studies and in organization, discipline and participation," REVOLUCAO learned from Armindo Vaz de Almeida, leader of a delegation of the JMLSTP [Youth of the Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome and Principe] in Cuba, where Almeida is also a graduate student in sociology.

Comrade Almeida arrived home last February to write his thesis for his course and to prepare to defend it, concluding his studies, which have kept him in Cuba for about 5 years.

Describing the situation of the Sao Tomian students in that Latin American country, Comrade Armindo said the biggest problems existed in 1975, when the first group of young nationals, including Armindo himself, arrived in that "country of workers."

There were problems adapting to the social milieu, lack of current news from Sao Tome and Principe and lack of news from the students' families. There was the mental attitude of young people from one country, which had only recently escaped from colonial domination, who had to adapt to a new life and the collective organization existing in Cuba, as well as a new educational system.

"During our studies, we also learned that a student must work, and we saw that the Cuban people are very honest and hard working. For this reason, all the Sao Tomian students who go to Cuba will find a structure set up, with guidelines and activities programmed by the JMLSTP delegation. so they will be less sensitive to the problems of adaptation to an environment which, basically, is relatively similar to our own," Comrade Armindo added.

"Last December we received a number of new students and pioneers who have also gone to Cuba to continue their studies, to serve our people better." said Comrade Armindo, who is now 26 years old.

Consular Section added by reporting that in association with the Ministry of National Education and Recreation and under the direction of the national youth organization, this "Cota" delegation is studying means to insure continuing and adequate communication to keep the students in Cuba abreast of current events in Dar Tamr, said means to be established shortly.

EJC
DTG: Ahal

LUSOPHONE AFRICAN NATIONALS ENFRANCHISED

Sao Tome DIARIO DA REPUBLICA in Portuguese 11 Feb 80 p 1

[National Popular Assembly Law No 2/80]

[Excerpts] By the authority conferred in Article 27 of the constitution, the National Popular Assembly adopts the following Electoral Law.

Introductory Title: Statement of Purpose of This Law

Article I

This law regulates:

a) The election, by free, direct and public vote, of delegates to the District Popular Assemblies.

b) The election by the District Popular Assemblies of deputies to the National Popular Assembly.

c) The election of the Permanent District Commissions by the respective District Assemblies.

d) The election of the Permanent Commission of the National Popular Assembly.

e) The election of the president of the republic by the National Popular Assembly.

f) The process of recall, if necessary, of those elected to office.

Title I

Right to Vote

Article 2

1. All citizens of Sao Tome, male and female, including members of the armed forces, who have reached the age of 18 have the right to vote in elections for delegates to the District Popular Assemblies.

2. The right to vote for delegates to the District Assemblies is also granted to citizens of Angola, Cape Verde, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau residing in Sao Tome and Principe on the date of national independence, who are engaged in the struggle of the people of Sao Tome for the consolidation of economic and political independence and are interested in a true social revolution.

3. This right is denied to mental incompetents, those who have previously been legally declared incompetent or who have been duly confirmed as incompetent, and those who are not in full enjoyment of their political rights.

4. All citizens who have the right to vote and who are in full possession of their political rights also have the right to be elected as delegates to the District Popular Assemblies.

5. Sao Tomian citizens who are in possession of their political rights and have reached the age of 18 have the right to be elected as deputy to the National Popular Assembly.

WORKERS' MOBILITY CURTAILED--Council of Ministers Resolution No 1/80. In view of the disorderly movement of civil servants from one sector of activity to another, the Council of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, meeting on 24 January 1980, determined: 1) Any employee of an organ of the central administration of the state or agency thereof who wishes to transfer to another organ of the central administration of the state, or to a public or private company, must first obtain authorization from the responsible official of the ministry to which he is attached; 2) Failure to comply with the standards established in this resolution will result in the application of penalties ascribed for disobedience, under the terms of the civil service statute in force, and in nullification of the appointment to the new sector of activity. Executed and published. Sao Tome, 24 January 1980, Manuel Pinto da Costa, president of the Council of Ministers. [Text] [Sao Tome DIARIO DA REPUBLICA in Portuguese 22 Feb 80 pp 1-2] 6362

CSO: 4401

BRIEFS

EXTENSIVE LIVESTOCK DEATHS--Dakar, 19 Aug (AFP)--According to the Dakar daily LE SOLEIL, the Senegalese bush has been transformed into a huge livestock graveyard as a result of the drought that has hit the country. The paper indicates that out of 13 million head of Senegalese livestock, 200,000 cattle and 180,000 sheep and goats have already died in the northern, north-central and northeastern regions. The paper adds that a million other animals are merely living carcasses. This drought is likely to be the worst drought ever recorded in Senegal. The rains, which fell after a delay of more than a month and [word indistinct], have again stopped and water reserves in the soil are very low because of last year's drought. [Text] [AB191736 Paris AFP in French 1508 GMT 19 Aug 80]

JAPANESE AID--Dakar, 8 Aug (AFP)--Japan has given Senegal audio-visual equipment valued at 40 million CFA francs (FF 80,000) it was learned on Thursday in Dakar. This equipment which is meant for the literacy campaign was handed over to the Senegalese Education Minister Mr Abd Kader Fall by the Japanese Ambassador to Dakar, Mr Sonoo Uchida. In addition, Mr Fall indicated that Senegal has been negotiating with Japan for the establishment of a professional electronics training center. [Text] [Paris AFP in French 1030 GMT 8 Aug 80 AB]

CSO: 4400

BRIEFS

IMMIGRATION CONTROL BILL APPROVED--A bill entitled the Noncitizens Registration, Immigration and Expulsion Amendment Act, 1980, was today approved by parliament. The foreign minister, Dr Abdulai Conteh, who piloted the bill, assured the house of the effectiveness of state security and that any refugee who does not comply with the laws of the state will be deported. Supporting the bill, the member for (Port Locust town), (Mr S.H.A. Koroma), called on members to consider the number of refugees, including deformed beggars, and the unpleasant spectacle which the presence of some of them create on the host countries. He cited countries that have fallen victims of such a situation. [Excerpt] [AB2221.4 Freetown Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 22 Aug 80]

DEVELOPMENT BUDGET--Parliament today approved the development estimate totaling 81,062,280 leones for the 1980-1981 financial year. Many projects will be undertaken or completed during the year, including integrated agricultural development projects, road building among others. [Freetown Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 7 Aug 80 AB]

CSO: 4420

PROBLEMS IN ELECTION PREPARATIONS DETAILED

Warning on Constituency Demarcation

LD141913 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 14 Aug 80 EA

[Text] The justice minister and attorney-general, Mr Stephen Ariko, has said that the responsibility of demarcating the electoral constituencies for the forthcoming general elections lies in the hands of the electoral commission alone, and not party leaders or party supporters.

Speaking at Serere County Headquarters in Soroti District, where a rumor on constituency demarcation was causing unrest, Mr Ariko warned against rumor-mongering and explained that the electoral commission consists of senior administrative officers who know the country well and in whom the government has confidence.

Mr Ariko ruled out the possibility of some sub-counties of Serere County being taken into neighboring districts for election purposes. He advised the people of Serere to forward their memorandum to the chairman of the electoral commission for consideration.

UPC Election Commission

LD181722 Kampala Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 18 Aug 80 EA

[Text] The UPC [Uganda People's Congress] secretariat has announced that following the understanding reached at the UPC leaders meeting in Kampala last month and in accordance with the party constitution, the party president, Dr Apolo Milton Obote, has authorized the publication of the names of the members of the party's election commission.

The chairman of the commission is Mr Otema Alimadi and the vice chairman is Mr (Kalule-Settala).

Members are: Mr (Aida Wanambea); Mr Abonia Tiberondwa; Mr J. Obua-Otuwa; Mr Sam Tewungwa; Mr (Obadiah Narobo); Mr (Osindekwa Ongor); Mrs (Siko Ogwar); Shaykh Ali Ssenyonga; Shaykh (Kenyemi); Dr Albert Picho Owiny; Mr (J.J.F. Potin); Mr P. Masete Kuria; Mr (Isa Tebunya); the Rev Dr Kefa Sempangi; Mr (Kam Mzita); Mr Hausi Rakaikala); Dr (Ezra)Nkwasibwe;

Mr (Ephraim Kamuti); Mr (Yuna Kanyumuzi); Mr (Chris Opiyo); Mr (Andrew Okware); Mr (David Mateng); Mr (Joshua Okol); Mrs (Mary Okwakor); Mr (Msasira Mutembea); and Mr (Ben Kirijira).

The commission will handle all matters pertaining to the forthcoming general elections. It is to be assisted by the party HQ department for political research and publications, which will act as its secretaries.

The first meeting of the commission is scheduled for Wednesday, August 20th, at 3 pm. All members of the commission are requested to get in touch with Mr (Benj Ocaya Rakhid) of UPC HQ for copies of the agenda.

Bias Allegations Denied

LD182028 Kampala [illegible] rvice in English 1700 GMT 18 Aug 80 EA

[Text] The secretary to the military commission, Colonel Maluru, has dismissed as totally without foundation the statement which appeared in the WEEKLY TOPIC newspaper on Friday to the effect that the military commission is biased against the Democratic Party. In a statement issued this evening, Colonel Maluru said it is not true that the military commission is waging a systematic campaign to discredit Democratic Party [DP] ministers in the present government.

Mr Okullu, then a DEP deputy minister in the Ministry of Cooperatives and Marketing, he said, went with (?policemen) to collect 35 metric tons of maize flour from the stores of the produce marketing board to take to his home district for distribution, contrary to the accepted normal procedure. According to the statement, it later came to the knowledge of the military commission that part of this maize flour consignment was sold at a premium. To be able to instill discipline in the government, the statement went on, the DEP minister was, after a careful consideration of the case, relieved of his responsibilities.

The statement also accused another DP minister for authorizing the private sale of government motor vehicles, contrary to the standing orders. This, the statement declared, was once again a breach of trust on the part of the minister, and the military commission treated the case with all the seriousness it deserved.

Another issue complained about was the action taken by the military commission to restrict the use of convertible currency to the most essential items. Colonel Maluru said the military commission took this action to support the (?loans) which (?have) been taken by the governor of the Bank of Uganda to curtail the outflow of foreign exchange except in the most urgent cases.

Finally, the statement emphasized that the military commission has (?chosen) not to publicize the steps which it has taken against DP ministers in the interest of unity.

CSO: 4420

BRIEFS

DENIAL ON PRESIDENT OUSTER--The chairman of the military commission, Mr Paulo Muwanga, has said that statements which were reported to have been made at a UPC [Uganda People's Congress] rally in Kampala yesterday to the effe that the party was responsible for the removal of Professor Lule and Mr Binaisa from office are without foundation. In a statement issued today, Mr Muwanga said the two former presidents were removed from power by UNLF [Uganda National Liberation Forces] organs. [LD151524 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 15 Aug 80 EA]

CSO: 4420

BRIEFS

BELGIAN LOAN--An agreement involving an interest-free loan of 400 million Belgian francs has been signed between the government of the Kingdom of Belgium and the Executive Council. According to a release from the secretary of state for international cooperation which provides this information, the amount will be used to finance the priority and urgent needs of four companies: the Zairian National Railroad Company (SNCZ), the National Transport Office (ONATRA), the National Electricity Corporation (SNEL) and the Water and Power Distribution Administration (REGIDESO). [AB062150 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1618 GMT 6 Aug 80]

OIL DRILLING--Kinshasa, 6 Aug (AZAP)--Initial drilling efforts in Zaire's central basin will start in February 1981, under the supervision of Esso-Zaire, reliable sources indicated. Presently, the company is striving to assemble the logistical means. However, several site inspection and study missions are being carried out in the region concerned in order to go further with exploration which has already begun. [Excerpt] [AB062150 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1350 GMT 6 Aug 80]

CSO: 4400

BRIEFS

ZAMBIAN, ROMANIAN MINING AGREEMENT--Zambia and Romania today signed a joint investment agreement to reopen the (Mukambo) copper mine, which was closed 5 years ago due to flooding. Speaking briefly at the signing ceremony, Minister of Mines Mr Mufaya Mamubna, who signed on behalf of the Zambian Government, expressed delight that the agreement had now been completed after a protracted period of negotiation. Mr Mumbuna disclosed that the 3 million kwacha project will be financed by the two countries, with Zambia contributing 1.9 million kwacha, while Romania would provide the balance and technical staff for the mine. Signing the agreement on behalf of Romania was Mr (Davidu), a member of the central committee of the Romanian Communist Party and general manager of the Romanian Mining Industry. [Text] [Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 23 Aug 80]

CSO: 4420

BRIEFS

PROTOCOL AGREEMENT WITH PAKISTAN--A protocol agreement was signed at Milton Building in Salisbury this afternoon between Zimbabwe and Pakistan. The agreement, which was signed by the deputy prime minister, Comrade Muzenda, and by the Pakistani minister of production and industries, Gen Ghulam Hassan Khan, covers economic, educational, scientific, cultural and technical cooperation between the two countries. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Gen Khan said his country is prepared to offer any assistance required by the new state Zimbabwe. Gen Khan told the ZBC that Pakistan will soon enter joint ventures with Zimbabwe in small-scale industry. He added that his country is offering personnel training in the fields of civil aviation and agriculture. He said Pakistan is willing to import minerals from this country, and a trade delegation from Pakistan will come to Zimbabwe in time for the Salisbury Trade Fair. [Text] [Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 21 Aug 80]

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Sept. 22 1980